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SEPTEMBER 1994

the RING

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"The Rematches"
TECHNICALLY, CHAVEZ GAINS REVENGE

British To A Fault?
THE RELAXED REIGN OF LENNOX LEWIS

Teddy Atlas Ignites Michael Moorer

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ADE THE MAN
HO BEAT THE MAN

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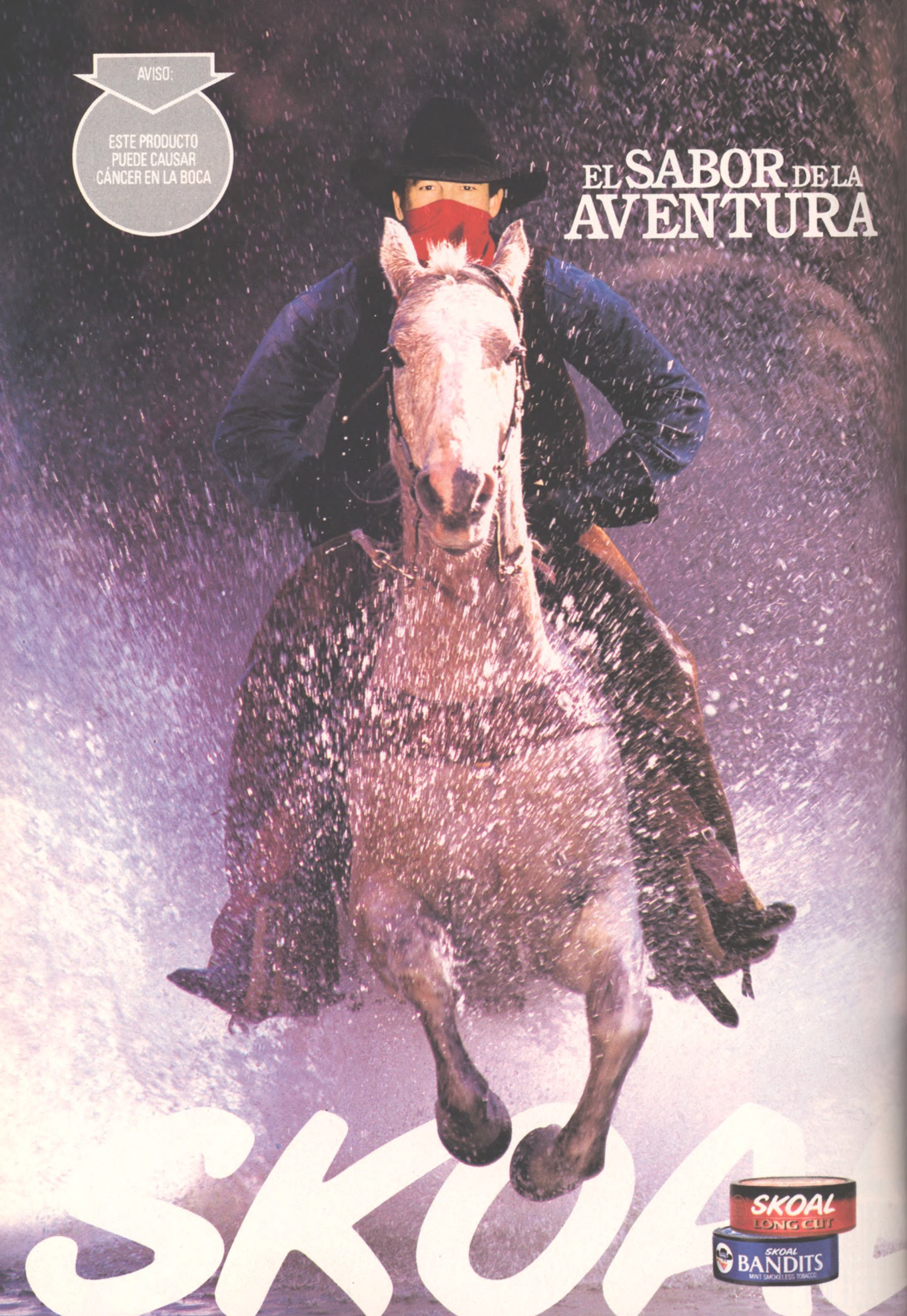
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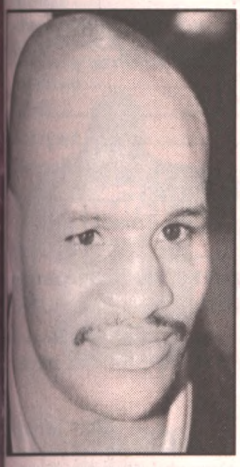

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by Bill Apter
Moorer & Teddy Atlas
by Al Bello/Allsport

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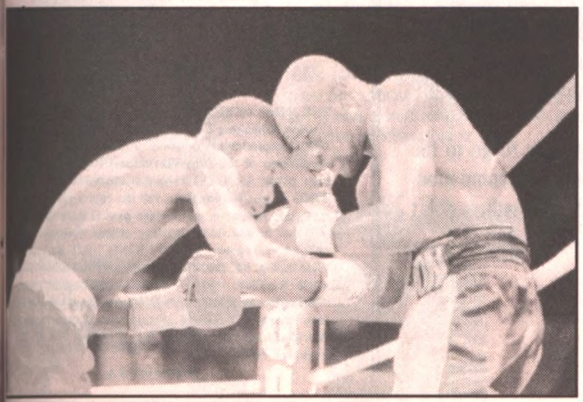

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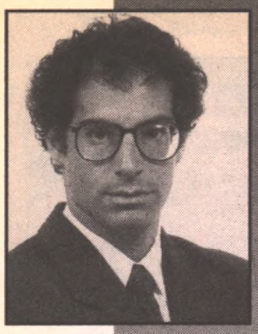

Ringside

We live in a world where the highest-paid sports columnists dismiss complex and controversial issues with pithy, Cannonesque one-liners, and the value of television interviews are measured in sound bites. Here, then, is my contribution. I've gone one step further: Four words max.

- **Teddy Atlas:** Deserves half the belt
- **Michael Moorer:** Damn the preconceived notions
- **Evander Holyfield:** Historians won't be fair
- **Jim Lampley:** Cheer, cheer for Evander
- **George Foreman:** Translator, please
- **Joe Hipp:** Warning: Ugly beating ahead
- **Lou Duva:** No fun when calm
- **Lennox Lewis:** Better than reviews suggested
- **Oliver McCall:** Undeserving? He beat Damiani!
- **Dan Duva:** Specialty: No-lose situations
- **Julio Cesar Chavez:** Now wearing black sombrero
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- **Gerald McClellan:** What Mugabi should've been
- **Meldrick Taylor:** Title shot? Just shot
- **Azumah Nelson:** En route to Canastota
- **Junior Jones & Kevin Kelley:** Biodegradable chins?
- **John-John Molina:** Breaks Oscar in half
- **Danny Romero:** Look out, Michael Carbajal
- **Hector Camacho:** Incandescent, inimitable, infuriating, insufferable
- **Mike Tyson:** What's that release date?

***

Try as I might, the Julio Cesar Chavez-Frankie Randall II controversy can't be dismissed in four words or less. For starters, I don't think Randall got robbed. While he may or may not have won a distance fight, the bout was very close through seven-plus rounds. (I had Randall ahead by two points.)

As for the controversy, we can only hope it was Dr. Flip Homansky's examination of the butt-induced cut, and not Chavez' alleged reluctance to fight on, that resulted in the stoppage. Regarding the former, it was curious that Homansky didn't give Chavez' corner a chance to control the flow of blood. Regarding the latter, if Homansky, whose judgment I've always respected, allowed Chavez to dictate the favorable terms of his surrender, he should never again be assigned to a big fight. Or any fight at all.

One final thought: The ridiculous WBC butt rule that cost Randall a point—and the title—should be rescinded. If a butt is unintentional, why should *anyone* be penalized? And asking the judges to score the round up to the point of the stoppage is equally ridiculous. What if only 10 or 20 seconds had elapsed?

"There's no time limit on how much of the round needs to be fought to go to the cards," said Marc Ratner, the executive director of the Nevada State Athletic Commission. "I waived the rule myself at the Tracy Patterson-Richard Duran fight. Most handlers don't understand the rule."

Most writers, too.

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

Volume 73, No. 9 September

The RING

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"The Bible Of Boxing"

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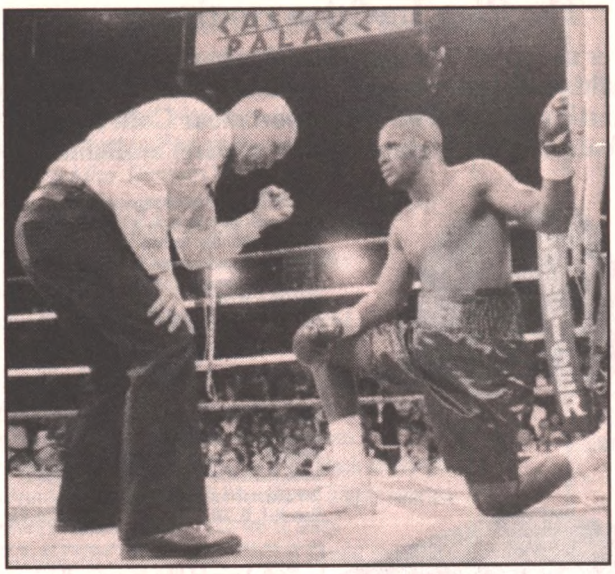
Come Out Writing

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 956, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

WAS EVANDER ROBBED?



Some readers felt Moorer's fall should have resulted in a 10-8 round

I just finished watching a robbery take place. Yes, I've been a witness to a crime. The robbery of Evander Holyfield. What were the clowns who judged this fight watching? It was clear Holyfield outfought Michael Moorer and should have won on all three scorecards. This fight should be reviewed and investigated, and the belt should be returned to its rightful owner. Why didn't they go out and hire some five-year-old kids to judge the fight? They could've done a better job. A message to Moorer: Don't wear your new belt too proudly because you know you lost, as does everyone who saw the fight.

DARREN MORSE
Warwick, NY

As a licensed boxing judge, I am bewildered by Jerry Roth's 10-10 tally for round two of the Moorer-Holyfield fight. Anyone who remotely understands boxing knows the fighter who scores a knockdown should be awarded the round by two points or, at the very least, one.

Also, whatever happened to the axiom that a challenger should win convincingly to be awarded the title? A draw or a close decision victory for Holyfield would have been acceptable. Moorer may have eked out a decision, but it was far from convincing.

DANIEL McKRELL
Parma, OH

KING, QUEEN, AND CARNERA

While I appreciate your efforts to add moments of levity to your coverage of my favorite sport, do you think you might be carrying it a little too far with the chessmaster's attempt to rate the all-time heavyweight champs? ("Round One," June 1994) The first several listings might arguably be appropriate, but Primo Carnera as the number-nine selection? Can anyone come up with a name on the remainder of the list whom Carnera could have beaten? Just one?

STEVE VANCE
Dalton, GA

Was there a heavyweight champ who wouldn't have beaten Carnera? Reader Steve Vance says no.

THE GREATEST FIGHTERS ...

Your section on the greatest fighters of all-time (May 1994) was marvelous. But I was struck by one glaring omission: You failed to include Stanley Burley among the all-time greats of one division or another.

Through no fault of his own, Burley never won a world title. This should not have disqualified him; you included other uncrowned champions on your list. Burley was arguably the greatest fighter who ever lived. Sugar Ray Robinson admitted he was glad he never met him in the ring. Archie Moore admitted Burley easily beat him, then added his conqueror had played poker the night before and climbed through the ropes with a hangover. Only Ezzard Charles, younger and bigger, and facing a faded Burley, seems to have decisively beaten him.

ALLEN ROSENFELD
West Bloomfield, MI

Congratulations for the fine rankings in your section on the greatest fighters of all-time. As a former resident of Japan, I especially agree with the rankings of Jiro Watanabe and Yoko Gushiken at junior bantamweight and junior featherweight, respectively. However, Eiichi Wajima rated third at junior middleweight was a surprise. Wajima was lucky to have won the title the first time, much less defend it six times. Consider his title reign:

•October 1971: Wajima split decisions Carmelo Bossi to become champion. The Yomiuri newspaper states Wajima would have lost several points for butting and low blows had the bout been held in Europe. The Ahashi newspaper says Wajima's style incites laughter.

•May 1972: Wajima kayos Domenico Tiberia in one round. The challenger's body resembles Tony Alberto.

•October 1972: Wajima kayos stringbean Matt Donovan in three rounds. Japanese fans laugh at Donovan's thin frame.

•January 1973: Wajima gains a horrendous draw with Miguel de Oliveira. All three judges are from Japan. The crowd, which is 99 percent Japanese, boos the verdict. Former world champions Fighting Harada, Yoshio Shirai, and Hiroyuki Ebihara all say de Oliveira was a clear-cut winner.

•April 1973: Wajima captures a majority decision against Ryu Yonamachi.

•August 1973: Wajima kayos Silvani Bertini in the 13th round. This is the only bout in which the champion looks dominant.

•February 1974: Wajima edges de Oliveira by majority nod. All three judges are Japanese.

•June 1974: Wajima loses the title by 15th-round knockout to Oscar Albarado.

This hardly appears to be the resume of one of the five best junior middleweights of all-time. Ayub Kalule, Terry Norris, and de Oliveira would have been more deserving choices. Wajima doesn't even deserve to be rated among the top five in Japan.

PAUL FIELD
Bremerton, WA

Your division-by-division ratings were very interesting. However, in listing your criteria for the selection process, you contradicted comments that appeared elsewhere in the magazine regarding Orlando Canizales and Virgil Hill. You admit Chong Pal Park was inferior to the 168-pounders ranked below him, yet you rate him first because he made eight successful defenses. Why, then, did you criticize Canizales and Hill for making several defenses, but failing to meet the best available competition?

Terry Norris is mentioned among the junior middleweights, but the fighter who slaughtered him, Simon Brown, is missing.

Wilfred Benitez licked Antonio Cervantes, yet you rate Cervantes higher because he reigned longer.

If the length of a champion's reign and the number of successful defenses he makes is so important, you shouldn't have been critical of Canizales and Hill. You can't have it both ways.

MARK ELDING
Peterborough, England ■

Wajima pummels Matt Donovan in their 1972 title fight

Round One

Levine: Ref never raised his hand

"I WAS CHAMP FOR A FEW SECONDS"

Popular and colorful former welterweight contender George Levine recently died in Beverly Hills, California. He was 92.

Over the course of his 14-year career (1916 to 1929), Levine fought a handful of championship-quality opponents, including Pete Latzo, Jack Britton, Pinky Mitchell, Joe Dundee, Tommy Freeman, and Tommy Milligan. On July 9, 1926, he challenged Latzo for the world welterweight title at Madison Square Garden. Levine floored Latzo in round four, but when referee Ed Purdy ruled the punch had been low, Levine was disqualified.

"I had Latzo down and was waiting for the referee to raise my hand," Levine recalled. "Instead, he picks Pete up and gives him the fight on a foul. So I was champ for a few seconds."

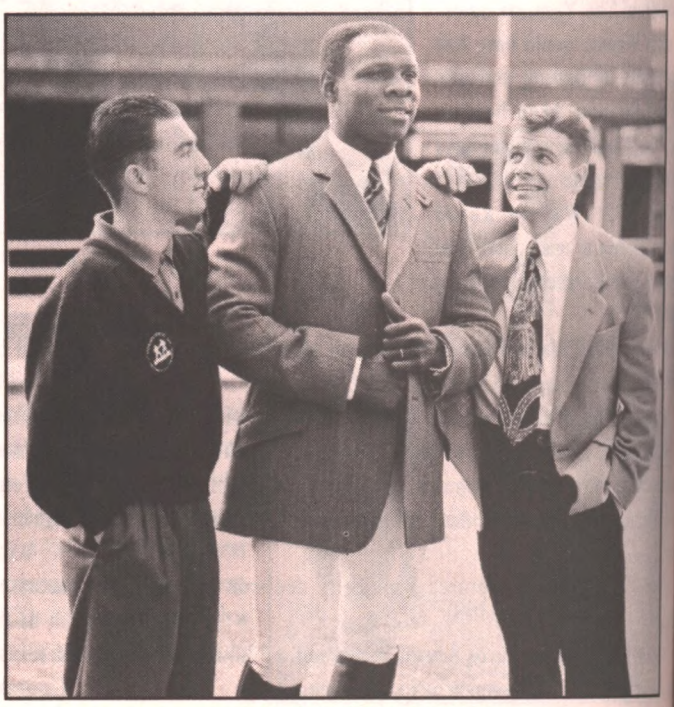
THE RING contributor Morris Schulatsky attended Levine's 92nd birthday party last year. "George was surrounded by friends, plus his daughter, two sons, seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren," recalled Schulatsky. "In that company, he felt not like the uncrowned king of the welterweights, but like a world champion."

PEOPLE WHO NEED PEOPLE

The quintessential Chris Eubank story, shared by Harry Mullan, editor of *Boxing News*:

Looking to score points with both his wife and his star fighter, British promoter Barry Hearn bought four front-row tickets for Barbra Streisand's recent concert at Wembley Arena in London. Streisand has a policy: She won't begin a performance until all front-row seats are filled. Ten minutes before showtime, the Hearns were seated, but Eubank and his wife were nowhere to be seen. Five minutes before the curtain and a frantic Hearn was still searching for Mr. and Mrs. Eubank. At the exact moment the curtain was scheduled to open, there was a huge roar from the crowd. It wasn't for the appearance of Streisand, but rather for the grand entrance of Eubank, monocle, walking cane, and all.

"Tell Ms. Streisand," he said, "she may begin."



Eubank in all his splendor

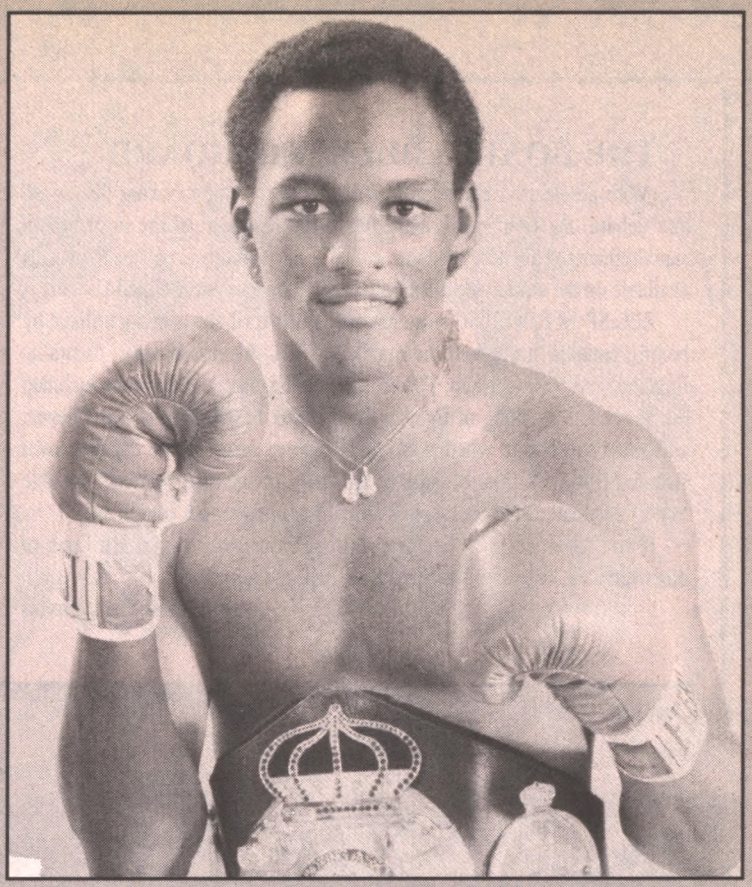
FROM BOXING RING TO DRUG RING

Former two-division world champion Donald Curry and two former boxers from the Kronk gym, Darrell Chambers and Stanley Longstreet, have been indicted by a grand jury on charges of running a drug ring that tried to smuggle cocaine from the Bahamas to Detroit.

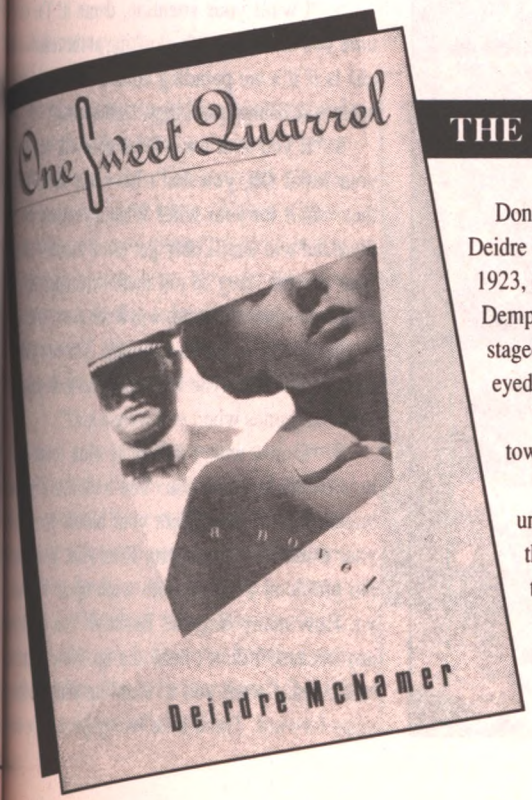
Curry, 32, who has been working as a manager and trainer, former welterweight contender Chambers, and Longstreet, who fought as recently as April 25, were charged in late-April with conspiracy, conspiracy to distribute cocaine, possession with intent to distribute cocaine, and being part of a continuing criminal enterprise.

According to a spokesman for the Drug Enforcement Agency, the indictment stems from a meeting in the Bahamas involving Curry, Chambers, Longstreet, and three undercover agents. The fighters agreed to buy 30 kilograms of cocaine on the condition that the drugs be delivered to Detroit. Chambers and Longstreet were arrested in December 1992 after allegedly delivering a $150,000 partial payment to the agents. Curry turned himself in to authorities in Fort Worth, Texas, on April 29.

"I'm guilty by association; I've never, never, ever had anything to do with drugs," Curry told the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram.*



Curry during his championship days



THE BOXING BOOKSHELF

Don't look for a blow-by-blow description of the Jack Dempsey-Tommy Gibbons fight in Deidre McNamer's new novel, *One Sweet Quarrel* (HarperCollins, $22), in which the July 4, 1923, heavyweight championship bout is a pivotal event. The 15-rounder itself, won by Dempsey via decision, was actually the least interesting feature of the bizarre spectacle staged by civic leaders in the tiny (population 1,000) city of Shelby, Montana, in a starry-eyed effort to uplift the oil-depressed local economy.

The result instead was bankruptcy for Shelby, and Ms. McNamer's description of the town and the sleazy, rowdy circus that engulfed it is touching and wonderful.

The Dempsey-Gibbons fight was dreary and unremarkable, but the circumstances under which it was staged made it one of the most famous in boxing history. It's curious that "The Rape Of Shelby," so well-known in the literature of the ring, never really got the broader treatment it deserved. Ms. McNamer's grandly evocative novel does the job nicely.

—Pete Ehrmann

THE BOXING BULLETIN BOARD

With an electronic bulletin board created solely for boxing discussion and debate, the fight game has entered the fast lane of the information superhighway. This new medium, called a newsgroup, is one of thousands available on the worldwide electronic bulletin board system called Usenet.

REC.SPORT.BOXING was created in mid-April and is being utilized by boxing fanatics throughout the mainland USA, Alaska, Hawaii, Australia, England, and New Zealand. The topics debated via computer have included the merits and standing of fighters like Lennox Lewis, Julio Cesar Chavez, and Jeff Fenech, and whether Michael Moorer deserved the decision over Evander Holyfield. And because of the speed of Internet, "netters" are able to post and read results and reports minutes after fights are completed.

If you have access to Internet via direct connect, America On Line, or other services, take a minute between rounds and join us.

—John R. Cobarruvias

Atlas saved his best speech for Moorer

THE FIVE BETWEEN-ROUNDS SPEECHES THAT *DIDN'T* WORK FOR TEDDY ATLAS

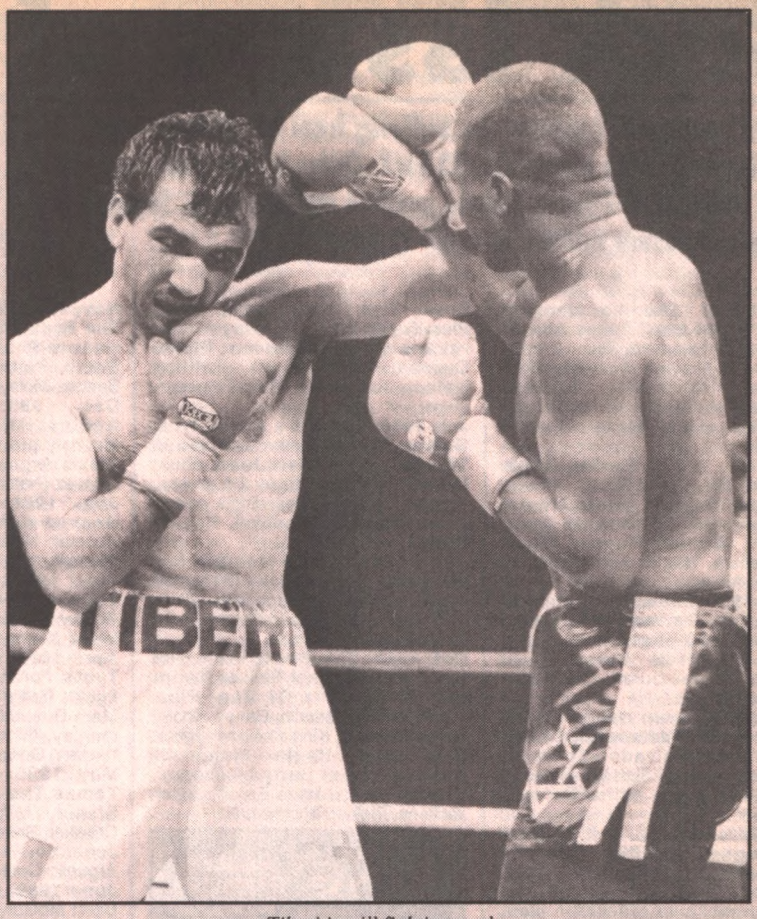
5. "I want your attention, damn it! The only time you should ever be looking at the round-card girl is if it's *me* parading around the ring in high heels and fishnet stockings. Understand?"

4. "If you won't win it for yourself, win it for your kids! Oh, you don't have any kids? Well, then win it for your wife! Whatta ya mean you're divorced and she'll only get more money? Okay, your parents; they're out there screaming for you. Win it for them. C'mon, win it for *them*! Oh, both of them? I'm sorry to hear that. Do you have a grandmother? Maybe an uncle who took you to a lotta ballgames when you were a kid?"

3. "Don't worry about it; nine rounds and he's barely touched you. You look like a million bucks. Blood? That's not your blood. We spiked your water with strawberry Kool-Aid. Your eyes? No problem. They're both wide open. I'll show ya: How many fingers? Exactly! You can't see any because I didn't hold any up. Now when the bell rings, I want you to stand up and take three steps forward. There'll be two guys in there wi

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

The WBC paid for the eye surgery of Mexican legend **Kid Azteca**, and the former national champion's sight has been completely restored. Azteca won the Mexican title in 1932 and finished his 28-year career with a record of 145-40-8 (75). "I would be happy with this result if nothing else was ever accomplished," said WBC President **Jose Sulaiman** ... Former featherweight **Maurice "Lefty" LaChance**, once rated as high as fourth in the world, died in Lewiston, Maine, at age 72. LaChance fought four world champions and, in 1943, defeated NBA 126-pound champion Phil Terranova in a non-title bout ... Junior featherweight **Bradley Stone**, 23, died two days after suffering brain injuries in a British title fight against **Richie Wenton**. Stone was knocked out in the 10th round ... **Joseph F. "Skeets" DeLeo**, who fought under the name of **Terry McGovern**, died in Philadelphia at age 90. DeLeo, who fought from bantamweight to lightweight, clashed with 13 world champions in a 102-bout career ... In Wilmington, Delaware, middleweight **Dave Tiberi** is suing the IBF, Trump Taj Mahal Associates, and ABC Sports, claiming his controversial 1992 title fight vs. **James Toney** was "sabotaged" by the appointment of two unlicensed and "fraudulently biased judges."



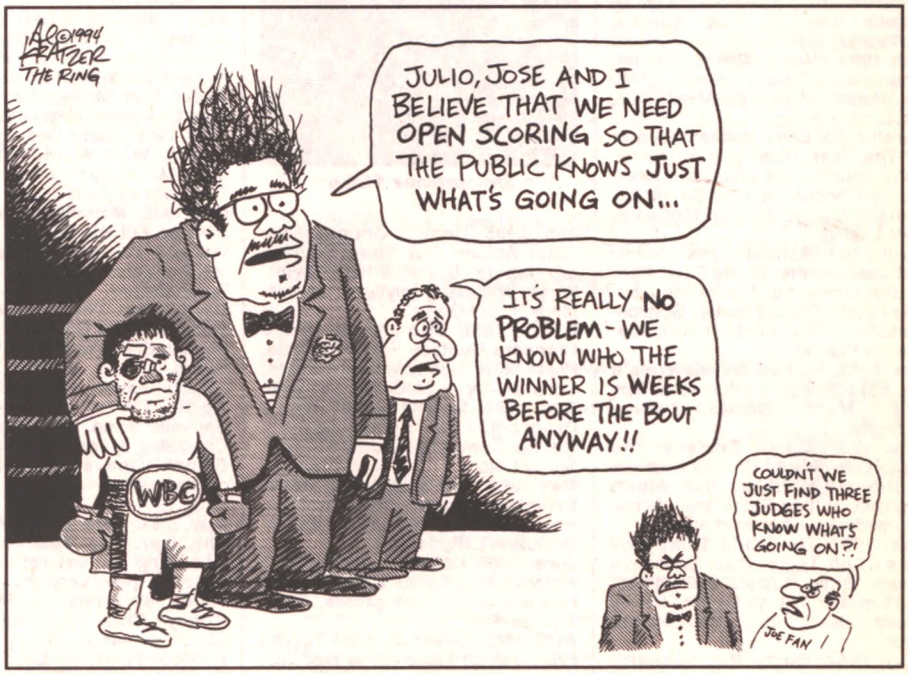
Tiberi is still fighting mad

...Just throw a punch at the one who isn't ...ring a bow tie."

2. "Do ya want *me* to get in that ring and ...this guy? Is that what ya want? 'Cause ...re not fighting a lick. Gimme your gloves, ..., and go get me some water. Wait a minute, ...you taking off your gloves? *Ugh!* Get that ...mouthpiece outta here. Hey, no way *I'm* ...in there with that animal. He hits like a ...locomotive! What ya think, I'm *crazy*? ...get back out there and show me you want ...

1. "I don't care what happens, just throw ...ches. If he runs, throw punches. If he hits ...throw punches. If the referee calls time out ...sends you to a neutral corner, throw punches. ...paraglider lands on the ring ropes, throw ...ches. If Larry Merchant comes into the ring to ...rview the other guy because he knocked you ...throw punches. You understand me? *Owww!* ...yet—wait until the bell rings!"

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



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Aug. 1981: Wilfred Benitez: Triple Crown Champ. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Roberto Duran, Henry Armstrong, Bob Fitzsimmons, Davey Moore, Benitez-Hope, Page-Evangelista, Hagler-Antuofermo II, Hamsho-Minter.

March 1982: Sanchez & Leonard: Fighters Of The Year! Plus: special year-end 100-page issue, fight, round, and upsets of year, Dwight Braxton, Benitez-Duran, Czyz-Sims, Pedroza-LaPorte.

May 1982: Marvin Hagler: Is He The Greatest Middleweight Champ Ever? Plus: Salvador Sanchez, southpaw boxers, Fletcher-Braxton, Arguello-Busceme, Primo Carnera, Max Baer.

July 1982: Leonard: Is It All Over For Sugar Ray? Plus: Ray and Lenny Mancini, Greg Page, James Kinchen, Coetzee-LeDoux, first-round knockouts, Jack Johnson, Tony Canzoneri.

Aug. 1982: Cooney: Is He The Real McCoy? Plus: Sugar Ray Leonard pinup, Holmes-Cooney coverage, Howard Davis, British heavyweights, Larry Holmes, Limon-Navarette.

Jan. 1983: Pryor-Arguello: Fight Of The Year. Plus: Frank "Animal" Fletcher, Dwight Braxton-Michael Spinks preview, ring deaths, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1983: Michael Dokes: Tainted Champion? Plus: Howard Cosell, Ray Mancini, Bum of the Month Club, Chacon-Limon.

March 1983: Larry Holmes: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: year in review, fight, round, and upsets of year, Bobby Chacon, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Milton McCrory, Duran-Laing.

April 1983: Randall "Tex" Cobb: Not Just Another Pretty Face. Plus: Hector Camacho, Carlos Monzon, Bob Foster, Charley Burley, Scypion-Fletcher, Mayweather-Serrano, Stanley Ketchel.

May 1983: Michael Spinks Wins It All. Plus: Spinks-Braxton color, Bob Arum, Marvin Hagler, Collins-LaPaglia.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: Ring's ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

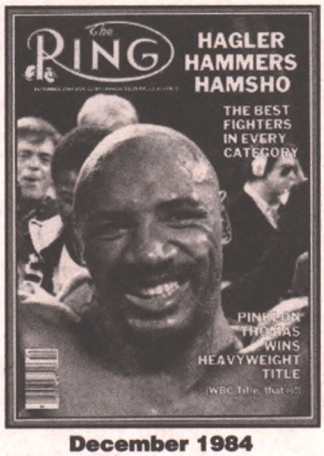
June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Sept. 1984: The Scramble For Bramble: Livingstone's Wrapped Up In Being A Champion. Plus: Hearns-Duran, Rosario-Davis, Aaron Pryor, Eusebio Pedroza.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, boxing's best, James Broad, Julian Jackson, Pinklon Thomas.



December 1984

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Oct. 1986: Marvelous Marvin: Can Anyone Fill His Shoes? Plus: Tim Witherspoon, Holyfield-Qawi, Panama's champions, Frankie Duarte, Tyson-Frazier.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook Up The Boxing World. Plus: Rosario-Bramble, Honeyghan-Curry, Butch Lewis, Buster Drayton, Johnson-Emebe, *Raging Bull II*.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still [illegible] Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-[illegible] heavyweight ratings, Czyz-[illegible] Donald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: [illegible] Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, [illegible] Roldan, Harold Knight.

Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: Ali Elected Unanimously. Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, [illegible] Pryor.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Leonard: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Mike Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitz: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Sports year-end awards, Holyfield-Cayo, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I'll Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, knockout artists.

June 1988: Sugar Ray Robinson: Still The Sweetest! Plus: All-time middleweight ratings, Larry Holmes, Louie Lomeli, McGirt-Warren, Haugen-Pazienza II.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge, Knight, Starling-Breland II, Bowe, Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Hearns Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Cobb, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Lalonde.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Taylor, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Future Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-[illegible]

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

March 1990: The '80s-Great Fighters (color). Plus: Harding, Evander Holyfield, Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

May 1990: **Big George Talks Tough: "Tyson Won't Be That Difficult!"** Plus: Ed Hopson, Russian fighters, grudge wars, Archie Moore, Kid Berg, Marcel Cerdan, Chavez-Cortes.

June 1990: **Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World.** Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

Sept. 1990: **Marvin Hagler-Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation?** Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Oct. 1990: **Thanks For The Memories: Rocky Graziano, 1922-1990.** Plus: Aaron Pryor, Mike Tyson, Napoles-Leonard, A Gathering Of Champions (color).

Nov. 1990: **Tyson vs. Foreman: Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past?** Plus: Marciano-LaStarza, boxing's best chins, Azumah Nelson, Sullivan-Kilrain (color).

Jan. 1991: **Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules.** Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: **Boxing On TV: Now You'll Pay.** Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison, Humberto Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis, heavyweight *Ring* covers (color).

April 1991: **Julio Cesar Chavez-The Ring Fighter Of The Year (color).** Plus: Mike Tyson, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, computer bantamweight tournament.

July 1991: **Tyson's Title Hopes: He Isn't What He Used To Be...But It's Not Gonna Matter.** Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Oct. 1991: **A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go?** Plus: Matthew Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Graziano (color).

Nov. 1991: **Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness: Will November 8 Be His Moment?** Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech-Azumah Nelson, overrated and underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Muhammad Ali (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 world champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

Feb. 1992: 70th Anniversary Collector's Edition: Through The Decades With "The Bible Of Boxing." Plus: Nat Fleischer, Jeff Harding, Whitaker-Paez, Tatsuyoshi-Richardson.

March 1992: Turning Heads-Ray Mercer Makes His Statement To The Heavyweights. Plus: Lou Nova, 1980 Olympic team, boxing cards, Rodrigo Valdes, *Ring's* New Year's wish, Joe Louis-Muhammad Ali, Jack Dempsey (color).

April 1992: Is Evander Holyfield Tough Enough To Stay On Top? Plus: Buddy McGirt, George Foreman, Toney-McCallum, referees, Marvin Hart, Al Hostak, Eusebio Pedroza-Salvador Sanchez, Ketchel-Johnson (color).

May 1992: Fighter Of The Year: James Toney. Plus: Roy Jones, Rocky Graziano, longest title reigns, Myung Woo Yuh & Khaosai Galaxy, James Warring, Billy Soose, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

June 1992: After Mike Tyson's Conviction: What Now? Plus: Buck Smith, Billy Graham, Holmes-Mercer, Enrique Pinder & Hilario Zapata, Toney-Tiberi, Foreman-Liston, Tyson (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).

Nov. 1992: Who'll Stop The Reign? Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Mike Tyson, Tommy Morrison, Chavez-Camacho preview, All-Time Top 10: Australia, Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown, Corbett-Sullivan (color).

Dec. 1992: Foreman vs. Morrison: Should This Fight Happen ... Will You Watch It? Plus: Ruddock-Lewis preview, Julian Jackson, Al Cole, Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey Museum, Randolph Turpin, Olympic recap, Floyd Patterson (color).

Jan. 1993: Slammin' 'n' Jammin'—Bowe & Holyfield Go One On One. Plus: The State of the Game, Gene Fullmer, Chavez-Camacho, Sullivan & Fitzsimmons, Bigfoot Martin, Carmen Basilio (color).

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

March 1993: From Question Man To Answer Man: Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kansas, Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color).

April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, All-Time Top 10: Argentina, Fighters of the Year (color).

May 1993: Oscar De La Hoya's Sprint To The Title: Is He Good Enough Now? Plus: *The Ring* poll, Freddie Pendleton, Carbajal-Gonzalez preview, Benny Leonard, Charley Burley, Lennox Lewis (color).

June 1993: Riddick Bowe: The Man, By LeRoy Nieman. Plus: All-Time Top 10: Ireland, Paul Hodkinson, Ray Mercer, Toney-Barkley, Kennedy McKinney, LeRoy Nieman (color).

July 1993: Pernell Whitaker Asks, "Who's Number One Now, Julio?" Plus: Carbajal-Gonzalez, Richard Steele, The Brawl at the Great Wall, Michael Moorer, Chavez-Haugen (color).

Aug. 1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Chavez Speaks Out. Plus: Bobby Czyz, 10 hardest punchers, Rafael Ruelas, Carmen Basilio, closing of the Fifth Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

Sept. 1993: Lennox Lewis' First Title Defense: Beating Tucker Was The Easy Part. Plus: All-Time Top 10: Mexico, Sergei Artemiev, Julio Cesar Vasquez, Gerald McClellan-Julian Jackson, Michael Spinks (color).

Oct. 1993: Tommy Morrison: Good Enough To Beat Big George, But Will He Win The Heavyweight Title? Plus: Riddick Bowe, Mike Capriano, Billy Conn-Joe Louis, All-Time Top 10: Puerto Rico, Charles Murray.

Nov. 1993: Julio Cesar Chavez: He Crushed Haugen, Annihilated Alli, Is Whitaker Next? Plus: Marvin Hagler, Evander Holyfield, John-John Molina, training tricks, final show at Madison Square Garden.

Dec. 1993: What If Mike Tyson Had Never Gone To Jail? Plus: Freddie Pendleton, Michael Moorer & Tommy Morrison, Willie Pep, Ed Dunkhorst, All-Time Top 10: Cuba, Tyson-Spinks (color).

Jan. 1994: Was Pernell Whitaker Robbed In San Antonio? Plus: Azumah Nelson, Willis Britt, State of the Game.

Feb. 1994: The British Are Coming! Does America Have Anthing To Worry About? Plus: Felix Trinidad, Junior Jones, fight clubs (Part I), Toney-Hearns.

March 1994: Evander Holyfield's Formula For Success—Obsession + Guts = Fulfillment. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Michael Bentt, Kronk, boxing novels, All-Time Top 10: Wales.

April 1994: Michael Carbajal: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Brown-Norris, Kevin Kelley, Ceferino Garcia, Oscar De La Hoya, Tunney Hunsaker, Spinks-Foster.

May 1994: 92-Page Special—Division-By-Division: The Greatest Fighters Of All-Time. Plus: Virgil Hill & Orlando Canizales, Kostya Tszyu, James Toney, What If ... Dempsey vs. Wills.

June 1994: Moorer-Holyfield: Slugfest Or Stinker? Plus: Terry Norris, Paul Pender, Randall-Chavez I, Gonzales-Carbajal II, kickboxing.

July 1994: "I Wanna Be Like Sugar Ray": Oscar De La Hoya Becomes A Prime-Time Player. Plus: Nigel Benn, Gianfranco Rosi, Sullivan-McCaffrey, Donald-Williams, 10 likely upsets, All-Time Top 10: England.

August 1994: Bowe's Back! Determined To Do It Again. Plus: Eric Griffin, Pernell Whitaker, Ray Mercer, Roger Donoghue, State of the Game (midterm report), All-Time Top 10: The Philippines.

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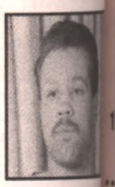
The Ring Ratings

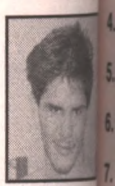
For Period Ended
May 12, 1994

Lennox Lewis

Chemak Saleta


Bobby Czyz

Frankie Randall


Rafael Ruelas

Leavander Johnson

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **MICHAEL MOORER** — Detroit, MI 35-0 (WBA & IBF Champ)
2. **RIDDICK BOWE** — Fort Washington, MD 34-1
3. **LENNOX LEWIS** — England 25-0 (WBC Champ)
4. **OLIVER McCALL** — Chicago, IL 24-5
5. **RAZOR RUDDOCK** — Ft. Lauderdale, FL 29-4-1
6. **HERBIE HIDE** — England 26-0
7. **LARRY HOLMES** — Easton, PA 60-4
8. **LARRY DONALD** — Cincinnati, OH 14-0
9. **LIONEL BUTLER** — Houston, TX 22-10-1
10. **CORRIE SANDERS** — South Africa 24-0

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 195 pounds

1. **ORLIN NORRIS** — Campo, CA 40-3 (WBA Champ)
2. **ANACLET WAMBA** — France 40-2 (WBC Champ)
3. **AL COLE** — Spring Valley, NY 24-1 (IBF Champ)
4. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS** — Las Vegas, NV 21-2-1
5. **BOBBY CZYZ** — Montgomery, NJ 42-5
6. **THOMAS HEARNS** — Detroit, MI 53-4-1
7. **NATE MILLER** — Philadelphia, PA 23-3
8. **NORBERT EKASSI** — France 20-4-1
9. **CHEMAK SALETA** — Poland 18-1
10. **KENNY KEENE** — Emmett, ID 26-0

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **VIRGIL HILL** — Bismarck, ND 38-1 (WBA Champ)
2. **HENRY MASKE** — Germany 23-0 (IBF Champ)
3. **MIKE McCALLUM** — Brooklyn, NY 46-2-1
4. **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS** — Mansfield, OH 36-5-2
5. **LEEONZER BARBER** — Detroit, MI 19-1
6. **JEFF HARDING** — Australia 23-1 (WBC Champ)
7. **FABRICE TIOZZO** — France 28-12
8. **EGERTON MARCUS** — Canada 13-0
9. **FRANK TATE** — Houston, TX 35-3
10. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** — Germany 21-0

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **JAMES TONEY** — Ann Arbor, MI 43-0-2 (IBF Champ)
2. **NIGEL BENN** — England 35-2-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **CHRIS EUBANK** — England 37-0-1
4. **STEVE LITTLE** — Reading, PA 22-13-2 (WBA Champ)
5. **MICHAEL NUNN** — Davenport, IA 42-2
6. **FRANK LILES** — N. Hollywood, CA 25-1
7. **TONY THORNTON** — Glassboro, NJ 32-6-1
8. **TIM LITTLES** — Flint, MI 23-1
9. **ANTOINE BYRD** — Los Angeles, CA 24-4-1
10. **VINCENZO NARDIELLO** — Italy 24-2

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** — Pensacola, FL 25-0 (IBF Champ)
2. **GERALD McCLELLAN** — Freeport, IL 31-2 (WBC Champ)
3. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON** — Seattle, WA 31-0 (WBA Champ)
4. **REGGIE JOHNSON** — Houston, TX 35-3-1
5. **THOMAS TATE** — Houston, TX 30-2
6. **LAMAR PARKS** — Greeneville, SC 27-1
7. **BERNARD HOPKINS** — Philadelphia, PA 25-2
8. **VINNY PAZIENZA** — Cranston, RI 37-5
9. **JULIAN JACKSON** — Virgin Islands 49-3
10. **QUINCY TAYLOR** — Dallas, TX 22-3

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. TERRY NORRIS
Mission Valley, CA 38-4 (WBC Champ)
2. JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ
Argentina 48-1 (WBA Champ)
3. GIANFRANCO ROSI
Italy 57-3-1 (IBF Champ)
4. SIMON BROWN
Mount Airy, MD 41-3
5. VERNO PHILLIPS
New York, NY 20-5
6. JULIO CESAR GREEN
Brooklyn, NY 16-1
7. CARL DANIELS
St. Louis, MO 30-1
8. TONY MARSHALL
Albany, NY 16-3-4
9. WINKY WRIGHT
St. Petersburg, FL 24-0
10. JAVIER CASTILLEJO
Spain 33-2

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. PERNELL WHITAKER
Norfolk, VA 33-1-1 (WBC Champ)
2. FELIX TRINIDAD
Puerto Rico 23-0 (IBF Champ)
3. CRISANTO ESPANA
N. Ireland 30-0 (WBA Champ)
4. BUDDY McGIRT
Hauppauge, NY 61-3-1
5. YORI BOY CAMPAS
Mexico 55-0
6. IKE QUARTEY
Ghana 25-0
7. ANTHONY JONES
Detroit, MI 34-5-1
8. WILFREDO RIVERA
Puerto Rico 17-0-1
9. OBA CARR
Detroit, MI 30-0
10. LARRY BARNES
Mt. Vernon, NY 31-1

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. FRANKIE RANDALL
Warren, OH 49-3-1
2. JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ
Mexico 90-1-1 (WBC Champ)
3. JAKE RODRIGUEZ
Brentwood, NY 25-2-2 (IBF Champ)
4. JUAN COGGI
Argentina 66-2-2 (WBA Champ)
5. ZACK PADILLA
Azusa, CA 21-1-1
6. KOSTYA TSZYU
Australia 12-0
7. CHARLES MURRAY
Rochester, NY 31-2
8. DAVID KAMAU
Los Angeles, CA 22-0
9. CARLOS GONZALEZ
Mexico 38-1
10. TONY LOPEZ
Sacramento, CA 44-4-1

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ
Mexico 31-0 (WBC Champ)
2. RAFAEL RUELAS
Arleta, CA 40-1 (IBF Champ)
3. NAZAROV OLZUBEK
Japan 20-0 (WBA Champ)
4. LEAVANDER JOHNSON
Atlantic City, NJ 22-0-1
5. FREDDIE PENDLETON
Miami, FL 35-19-4
6. JOEY GAMACHE
Lewiston, ME 34-1
7. MIGUEL JULIO
Colombia 25-1-1
8. SHARMBA MITCHELL
Takoma Park, MD 30-1
9. SHANE MOSLEY
Pomona, CA 10-0
10. RAMON MARCHENA
Mexico 50-11-2

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. JESSE JAMES LEIJA
San Antonio, TX 28-0-2 (WBC Champ)
2. GENARO HERNANDEZ
Los Angeles, CA 30-0-1 (WBA Champ)
3. JOHN-JOHN MOLINA
Puerto Rico 35-3 (IBF Champ)
4. AZUMAH NELSON
Ghana 36-3-2
5. CALVIN GROVE
Coatesville, PA 45-5
6. GABE RUELAS
Arleta, CA 37-2
7. OSCAR DE LA HOYA
Montebello, CA 12-0
8. VICTOR HUGO PAZ
Argentina 45-1-1
9. REGILIO TUUR
Whitestone, NY 35-3-1
10. ED HOPSON
St. Louis, MO 22-0

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. KEVIN KELLEY
Flushing, NY 38-0 (WBC Champ)
2. TOM JOHNSON
Detroit, MI 35-2-1 (IBF Champ)
3. ELOY ROJAS
Venezuela 28-1-1 (WBA Champ)
4. YUNG KYUN PARK
South Korea 25-2-1
5. STEVE ROBINSON
Wales 17-9-1
6. GOYO VARGAS
Mexico 30-5-1
7. MIGUEL ARROZAL
Portland, OR 39-1
8. ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ
Mexico 30-2-2
9. FRANCISCO SEGURA
Coachella, CA 24-6-1
10. ORLANDO SOTO
Panama 22-1

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. KENNEDY McKINNEY
Las Vegas, NV 27-0-1 (IBF Champ)
2. TRACY PATTERSON
Highland, NY 50-2-1 (WBC Champ)
3. WILFREDO VASQUEZ
Puerto Rico 39-6-3 (WBA Champ)
4. JULIO GERVACIO
Puerto Rico 29-3-2
5. WELCOME NCITA
South Africa 33-2
6. JESUS SALUD
San Diego, CA 47-6
7. CESAR SOTO
Mexico 37-5-2
8. JUNIOR JONES
Brooklyn, NY 32-1
9. JAE WON CHOI
South Korea 18-0
10. JOSE BADILLO
Puerto Rico 14-0

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. ORLANDO CANIZALES
Laredo, TX 36-1-1 (IBF Champ)
2. JOHN MICHAEL JOHNSON
San Antonio, TX 18-4 (WBA Champ)
3. YASUEI YAKUSHIJI
Japan 21-2-1 (WBC Champ)
4. ELIECER JULIO
Colombia 24-1
5. JUNG IL BYUN
South Korea 10-1
6. RAFAEL DEL VALLE
Puerto Rico 15-0
7. VICTOR RABANALES
Mexico 34-12-2
8. VINCENZO BELCASTRO
Italy 26-5-3
9. DAORUNG CHUWATANA
Thailand 49-4-2
10. WAYNE McCULLOUGH
Las Vegas, NV 12-0

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. JULIO BORBOA
Mexico 22-4 (IBF Champ)
2. KATSUYA ONIZUKA
Japan 23-0 (WBA Champ)
3. MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA
Mexico 30-0
4. HIROSHI KAWASHIMA
Japan 14-2-1 (WBC Champ)
5. SUNG KIL MOON
South Korea 20-2
6. KHAOYAI MAHASARAKAM
Thailand 45-4
7. JOHNNY BREDAHL
Denmark 21-0
8. CARLOS SALAZAR
Argentina 30-4-3
9. CECILIO ESPINO
Huntington Park, CA 28-3-1
10. KOTARO HAYASHI
Japan 12-3

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. YURI ARBACHAKOV
Japan 17-0 (WBC Champ)
2. SAN SOW PLOENCHIT
Thailand 18-0 (WBA Champ)
3. PHICHIT SITHBANGPRACHAN
Thailand 17-0 (IBF Champ)
4. ISAIAS ZAMUDIO
Blythe, CA 36-4-1
5. DAVID GRIMAN
Venezuela 17-1
6. MARK JOHNSON
Washington, D.C. 18-1
7. DANNY ROMERO
Albuquerque, NM 15-0
8. JOSE LUIS ZEPEDA
Mexico 23-11-2
9. ROBBIE REGAN
Wales 13-1-3
10. ARTHUR JOHNSON
Minneapolis, MN 8-1

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. CHIQUITA GONZALEZ
Mexico 38-2 (WBC/IBF Champ)
2. MICHAEL CARBAJAL
Phoenix, AZ 30-1
3. LEO GAMEZ
Venezuela 25-3 (WBA Champ)
4. MELCHOR COB CASTRO
Mexico 38-4-3
5. ERIC GRIFFIN
Jasper, TN 12-1
6. LEON SALAZAR
Panama 15-3-1
7. JOSE DeJESUS
Puerto Rico 26-2-1
8. JESUS CHONG
Mexico 22-5
9. FAHLAN SAKKIRIN
Thailand 26-2-1
10. ROBINSON CUESTA
Panama 23-1

POUND FOR POUND

1. PERNELL WHITAKER
Welterweight
2. JAMES TONEY
Super Middleweight
3. ORLANDO CANIZALES
Bantamweight
4. RICARDO LOPEZ
Strawweight
5. CHIQUITA GONZALEZ
Junior Flyweight
6. MICHAEL CARBAJAL
Junior Flyweight
7. KENNEDY McKINNEY
Junior Featherweight
8. ROY JONES
Middleweight
9. GERALD McCLELLAN
Middleweight
10. FRANKIE RANDALL
Junior Welterweight

New Faces

Carlos Hernandez

Junior Lightweight

Photos by Brent Cook

By Derek Gray

At a young age, Carlos "Famous" Hernandez should have sensed his future was in the ring. Where some boys turn to the gym after getting beat up on the streets, Hernandez was the bully of his kindergarten class. And he was subsequently kicked out of one school after another for fighting. Finally, Hernandez' father took him to the one place where fighting is considered acceptable behavior.

"My dad took me to the gym in Paramount [California] when I was 16 because I was overweight, and he figured I would get into fights anyway," said the boyishly handsome fighter. "This way he thought I could lose weight and learn some self-defense at the same time. I really liked it."

However, Hernandez quit boxing after two years, deciding to give school another try. He graduated from high school and spent some time in junior college. But boredom set in, and he decided to return to the ring, this time for good.

After a brief amateur career, during which he compiled a record of 21-4 (5), Hernandez, now 23, has fast become a rising star in the junior lightweight division. He is 16-0-1 (8), the lone blemish being a draw in his pro debut vs. Victor Martinez.

"I wasn't really well-prepared, having been off for two years," he said of the Martinez fight. "He was a pretty rough guy, but we haven't seen him around since. I wish I could erase it. We've been looking for him, but I think he's retired."

Since then, Hernandez has won 16 straight bouts. Fighting out of the Westminster Boxing Club, and under the expert tutelage of legendary trainer-manager Jackie McCoy and Benny Georgino (the two have handled more than a dozen world champions between them), it seems Hernandez is finally in the right place at the right time.

"He looked right from the beginning like he had a little bit extra," said McCoy. "He's a very tough kid. He's very strong and really quick, as well as being a positive thinker. We had some pretty decent fighters come out to work with him, but he was never intimidated by anyone. He just walked in there and started trying to kill 'em."

Although McCoy would like to see Hernandez use his jab and box more, the fighter seems content to slug it out. He is a tremendous bodypuncher and

(Continued on page 7)

Hernandez outhustles veteran Narciso Valenzuela

PRO RECORD

1992		
Jan. 23	Victor Martinez, Irvine, CA	D 4
April 23	Francisco Salinas, Irvine	W 4
May 27	Bret Boone, Irvine	W 4
June 25	Tony Olivas, Irvine	KO 1
July 13	Mike Dallas, Inglewood, CA	KO 2
July 24	Jorge Ojeda, San Bernardino, CA	KO 2
Aug. 10	Edgar Soto, Inglewood	KO 2
Oct. 30	Larry Loy, San Bernardino	W 6
Nov. 6	Ramon Morales, Inglewood	W 5
1993		
March 25	Sergio Baez, Irvine	W Disq. 4
April 17	Jorge Ojeda, Sacramento, CA	KO 5
April 26	Rafael Vargas, Inglewood	KO 5
June 28	Greg Puente, Inglewood	W 6
Oct. 11	Hector Monjardin, Inglewood	W 8
1994		
March 1	Javier Marquez, Inglewood	KO 6
March 14	Paris Alexander, Irvine	KO 7
April 25	Narciso Valenzuela, Inglewood	W 10

RECORD:	FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
	17	16	0	1	8

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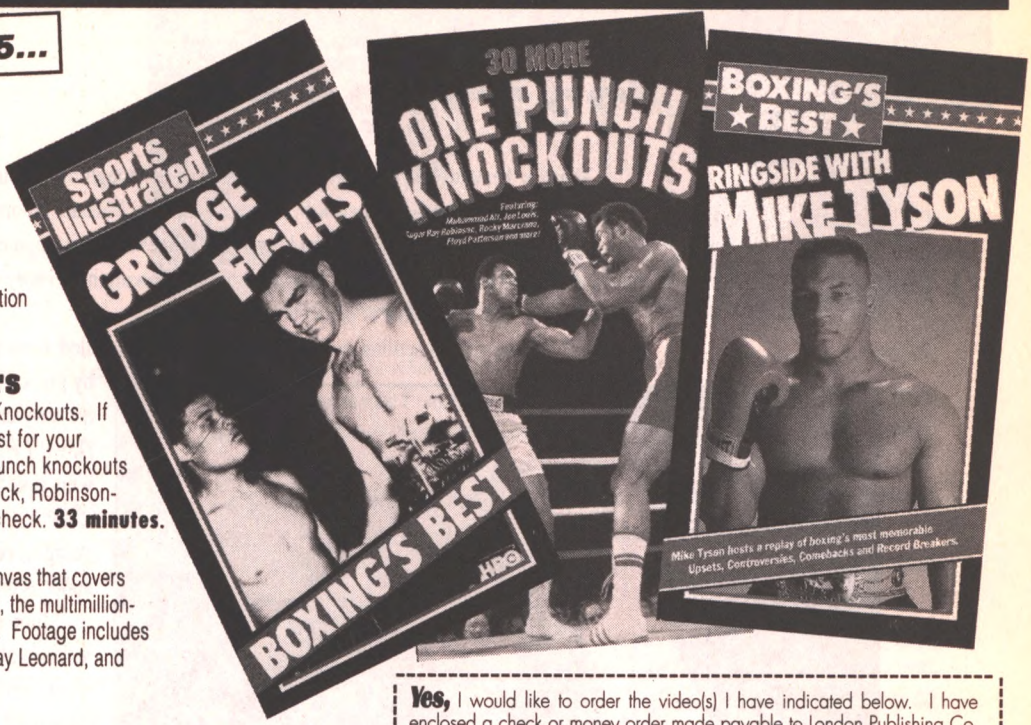

RUDGE FIGHTS
he greatest grudge fights in boxing history as presented in this non-stop action video. ee Jack Dempsey try to regain the title from ene Tunney and Joe Louis seek revenge gainst Max Schmeling. Watch Joe Walcott attle Ezzard Charles and Rocky Marciano in epic wars, the Ali Frazier trilogy, plus a collection of rare footage that recounts boxing's most memorable bouts. **58 minutes.**

ORE ONE-PUNCH KNOCKOUTS
he exciting followup to Great One-Punch Knockouts. If you like knockout action, this video is a must for your collection. You'll see these fantastic one-punch knockouts and many more: Ali-Liston II, Louis-Braddock, Robinson-Turner, Patterson-Johansson II, Louis-Paycheck. **33 minutes.**

INGSIDE WITH MIKE TYSON
ike Tyson puts it all together in a colorful canvas that covers he main events, the controversies, the upsets, the multimillion-dollar gates, the records, and the comebacks. Footage includes onny Liston, Jake LaMotta, Ray Robinson, Ray Leonard, and much more. **44 minutes.**

HE MIDDLEWEIGHTS
he most skillful and devastating middleweights in the history of boxing are profiled in this fast-moving video. Watch stellar performances by Stanley Ketchel, Sugar Ray Robinson, and Marcel Cerdan. Also includes Rocky Graziano, Jake LaMotta, Carlos Monzon, and many others. Hosted by Curt Gowdy and Floyd Patterson. **58 minutes.**

OXING'S GREATEST CHAMPIONS
Match wits with the Boxing Writers of America as they choose the best fighter of all-time from each division and then debate who deserves the title of the Greatest Fighter of All-Time. Includes explosive fight footage of Henry Armstrong, Benny Leonard, and Roberto Duran in the lightweight division; welterweights Barney Ross, Henry Armstrong, and Ray Robinson; middleweights Mickey Walker, Carlos Monzon, and Ray Robinson; light heavyweights Bob Fitzsimmons, Billy Conn, and Archie Moore; heavyweights Muhammad Ali, Rocky Marciano, and Joe Louis. **60 minutes.**

HE HEAVYWEIGHTS: "THE BIG PUNCHERS"
he biggest draw in sports today is the heavyweight knockout artist. This hard-hitting video explores boxing's most famous punchers. A sample of the action included in this video are clips of Dempsey's savage victory over Willard, the second Louis-Schmeling fight, Marciano vs. Walcott, and Frazier vs. . **59 minutes.**

REAT ONE-PUNCH KNOCKOUTS
ou've got a ringside seat for a heart-stopping lineup of boxing's most exciting knockouts, including Muhammad Ali-George Foreman, Ezzard Charles-Joe Walcott, Jim Corbett-Bob Fitzsimmons, Rocky Marciano-Joe Walcott, Sugar Ray Robinson-Rocky Graziano, and many more. **30 minutes.**

HE HEAVYWEIGHTS: THE STYLISTS
ost Curt Gowdy highlights the careers of the sport's finest boxers. Beginning with Jim Corbett, you'll see challengers throughout history battle in some of the most striking film coverage ever assembled. Jack Johnson displays exquisite defensive skills, Floyd Patterson shows off his peek-a-boo style, Gene Tunney demonstrates the scientific approach to boxing, and Muhammad Ali exhibits the skills that made him "The Greatest," plus Walcott, Charles, and Louis. **57 minutes.**

YSON AND THE HEAVYWEIGHTS
oin Mike Tyson as he takes a tour through the history of the heavyweight division. Tyson adds his own insight as he analyzes the styles and lives of the men who wore the heavyweight crown before him. This fantastic video includes rare footage of Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, Rocky Marciano, Muhammad Ali, and, of course, Tyson himself. **51 minutes.**

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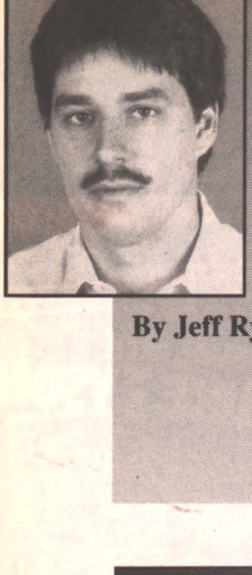


Ryan Out Loud

????????

By Jeff Ryan

The new heavyweight champion began his reign as though his burning desire is to be featured on *Unsolved Mysteries*, not *Greatest Sports Legends*. As open books go, Michael Moorer had always rated somewhere between the Packwood Diaries and the financial logs of the Whitewater Development Corporation, and inquiring minds are disappointed to learn the title hasn't changed him. Following his victory over Evander Holyfield, Moorer barely let the world peek at his table of contents.

With the crown still settling on his shaven head, Moorer called a few press conferences that proved dull even by press conference standards, made a friendly but not very enlightening visit to *The Late Show With David Letterman*, and made it clear to everyone who asked that such topics as title unification, Riddick Bowe, and the return of Mike Tyson are going to occupy his thoughts in the months ahead about as often as the political climate in Belgium.

Moorer's postfight reticence, combined with an uncharacteristically patient and scientific title fight performance, has many boxing observers convinced he might make the perfect front man for a Question Mark & The Mysterians reunion concert. Analyzing the southpaw would seem to require the services of everyone from Dr. Freud to Dr. Pacheco, and no doubt result in a volume of data so thick that Atlas—not Teddy, but the other guy—couldn't lift it off the lab table.

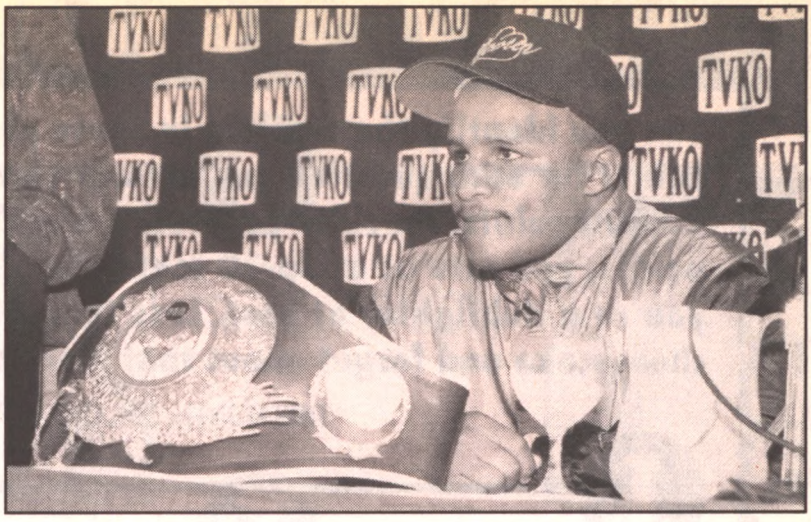
What gives? What are we to make of the holder of the most prestigious title in sports? Is he really as inscrutable as he appears? Or is he putting up the biggest facade in sports this side of the one adorning Yankee Stadium? Having known Moorer for a few years, and having spoken to him in various settings, I will try to offer a little more insight into the man. In the case of Moorer, a little insight is usually all you get.

First of all, yes, Moorer *has* always proved enigmatic behind the scenes as he has on stage. His desire to break a cheekbone or tear out an esophagus is something he has casually discussed with me at times when he couldn't have cared less if he was being quoted or creating interest in an upcoming fight. He was speaking from the heart, which only made his remarks all the more intriguing—and chilling. There were other times, however, when he warmed away the chill.

In this business, it is not uncommon to have

Photo by Anthony Neste/HBO

Referee Mills Lane seems ready to catch Michael Moorer, who has just been crowned heavyweight champion. Moorer, however, would prefer to stand on his own two feet.



...er has already been characterized as enigmatic, at ...t partly because he doesn't provide boxing writers ...he answers and quotes they desire.

...ually reintroduce yourself to fighters who are too dumb to remember ...they met you for the 12th time just two days ago. When I first met ...rer, we spent about a minute or two discussing his Western ...sylvania roots, and I mentioned to him that my wife had grown up in ...same area. More than a year passed before I spoke with him again. No ...ver had I said hello than he asked how my wife was, mentioned her ...etown, and inquired if she had recently been back to visit her family. It ...a side of Moorer I didn't know existed.

...It may seem odd to call a guy who once punched a cop *intelligent*, but ...rer is bright, and not just by the usual boxing standards (knowing not to ...with an uppercut or being able to use a four-syllable word). Speak to ...about something other than his sport and it's apparent the heavyweight ...sion's closed book has opened one on occasion. He has also revealed to ...a good sense of humor, though he would much rather hear the good joke ...attempt to tell it.

...The grade I received back in Psychology 101 precludes me from making ...clinical diagnosis of Moorer, but my layman's educated guess is that he ...forever remain an enigma because it is so much easier than having to ...ge into something else. He is honest when he talks about the joy of ...ing people, and he's not going to zip his lip to land a cereal commercial. ...punches a cop because he never really stopped to think if it is better to be ...wn as the next Joe Frazier than the next Sonny Liston. Leave that stuff to ...writers to debate.

...When he chose not to stand and bomb with Holyfield for whatever ...son (perhaps the second-round knockdown made him wary), Moorer ...ded he was going to win or lose *his* way, not the way his destroyer ...ge or the pay-per-view announcing team suggested he should. (By the ..., the Holyfield Cheerleading Squad of Jim Lampley, Larry Merchant, ...George Foreman did everything but wave pompons and shout, "Give ...an E, give me a V, give me ...")

...As we went to press, the rumor was Moorer may select Joe Hipp for his first ...ense and Foreman for his second. Of course, that's criminal, but if Riddick ...we can slap around Michael Dokes and Jesse Ferguson and Lennox Lewis ...snack on Frank Bruno and Phil Jackson, it's no surprise Moorer feels he is ...ded to dent a tomato can and then tip over a rocking chair himself.

...The new titlist is said to be angry at Foreman's comments that Moorer ...n't deserve the decision over Holyfield, though it's still not clear to most people just what the hell Big George *was* saying after that fight. What's funny is that I remember sitting ringside with Moorer at the Larry Holmes-Ray Mercer fight in 1992 and listening to him complain that Foreman hadn't deserved his title shot at Holyfield and "shouldn't be allowed to fake his way into another one." Now, in an attempt to make the old guy pay for his smart mouth, not to mention collect what Moorer expects will be an easy night's wages, Moorer is plenty willing to give Foreman that most undeserved of opportunities.

Don't tell me left-handers aren't flaky.

Moorer will be blasted for his choice of challengers, but he won't care. In the months ahead, the interviewers will probe, but be frustrated by the contradictions they uncover and the dead-end paths they are led down. And no matter how much anyone gets to know him, they won't ever *really* know him. Even after the laughs we've shared, I wouldn't dare lay a finger on him the way I'd playfully grab a Vinny Paz or square off with a Riddick Bowe. And I don't think you'll ever see Moorer smiling for the studio audience while Regis Philbin sails a right cross past the tip of his nose.

Moorer gives you the impression that two years of waiting for his title fight, and countless nights dreaming of belts around his waist and microphones in his face, didn't prepare him for the throne, didn't polish his people-skills or give him time to formulate an agenda. He seems content to sail along and wait for the tides of fate to carry him somewhere.

Is it possible, though, that his reign *has* been planned out, and is unfolding exactly as he'd like? Maybe it has been planned out not by managers and promoters, but by Moorer alone. Maybe he doesn't want the demands on his time, the interview requests that "just can't wait," or all those other things Bowe and Holyfield always had to do because they were too nice to say no. Maybe being aloof means maintaining some independence and freedom. Maybe, just maybe, the only person Michael Moorer is truly comfortable being around is Michael Moorer.

If that's the case, at least a few people have already gotten the message. Don't be surprised if the defining moment of Moorer's reign proves to be the exact moment it began. When ring announcer Michael Buffer bellowed, " ... and *new* heavyweight champion of the world ...," the victor leaped high into the air. And for the first time I can ever recall in an instance when a title changed hands, when the new champion came down, nobody was standing near enough to catch him. ■

THE RING'S EXCLUSIVE

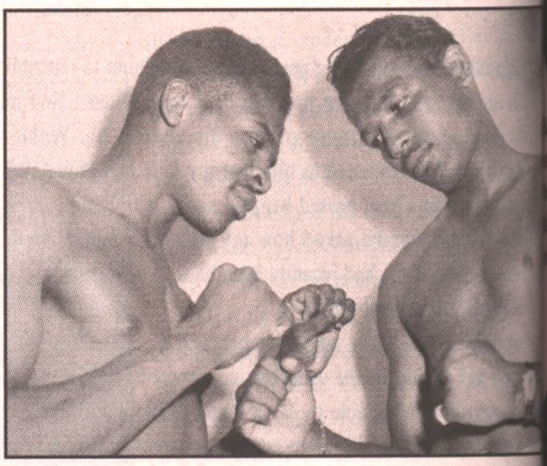
PHOTO QUIZ TEST

Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-8 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

THIS MONTH: SUGAR RAY ROBINSON'S OPPONENTS

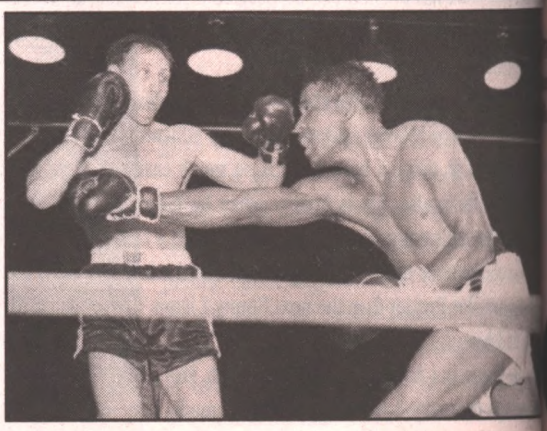
1

In 1954, this Washington, D.C., middleweight was ranked third in the world. He lost on points to 160-pound champion Robinson in a non-title bout in April 1951.



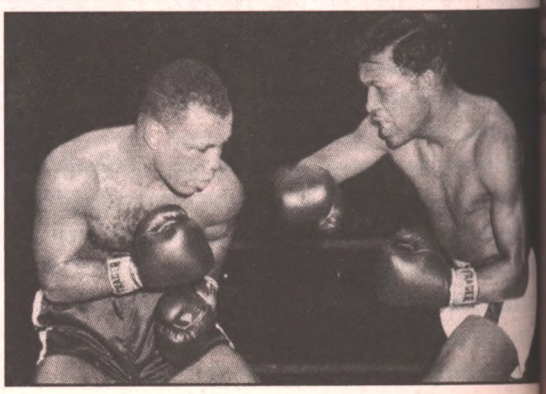
2

It can be argued that Robinson peaked at welterweight. Among his 147-pound title fight victims was this New Jersey contender, who lasted the distance in August 1950.



3

In 1955, a comebacking Robinson was outpointed by this New York middleweight, who somehow never secured a try at the world title.



TOUR BOXING IQ

4

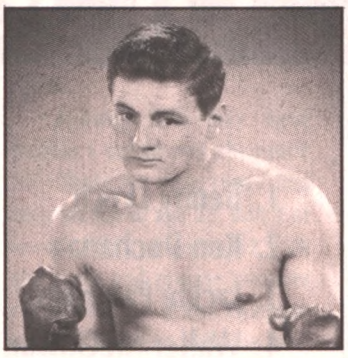
...issy welterweight would probably ...been a world champion had he not ...Robinson for the vacant title in 1946. ...st over 15 rounds.

5

Robinson was in his second year as a pro when he defeated this future world champion in 1941. Sugar Ray repeated the victory in '42.

6

...regaining the middleweight title ...5, Robinson proved himself by ...ing this contender, whose sole try at ...e came vs. Bobo Olson ...4.

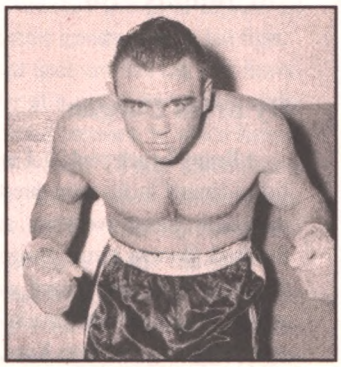


7

Robinson was 54-1 when he was held to a draw by this rugged Puerto Rican in 1945. In the rematch, five years later, Sugar Ray scored a first-round kayo.

8

...Frenchman defeated Jake LaMotta ...Gavilan, but lost twice to ...son in 1950.



9

Robinson outpointed this reigning NBA lightweight king, and future world champion, in his 21st pro bout.

10

...Ray was 44 years old when ...opped a decision to this top- ...contender in 1965. It was ...son's 202nd and last bout.

ANSWERS:

1) Holly Mims;
2) Charley Fusari;
3) Ralph "Tiger" Jones;
4) Tommy Bell;
5) Marty Servo;
6) Rocky Castellani;
7) Jose Basora;
8) Robert Villemain;
9) Sammy Angott;
10) Joey Archer

The Best Of A Nation

The All-Time Top 10 Of Scotland

Benny Lynch

Who was the best British fighter of all-time? The best Mexican? The best Japanese? The debate will rage forever. In an attempt to fuel the fire, or at least offer some perspective, THE RING has asked several of its correspondents to compile their personal top-10 lists.

1. Benny Lynch
2. Ken Buchanan
3. Jackie Paterson
4. Walter McGowan
5. Johnny Hill
6. Peter Keenan
7. James Hall
8. Tancy Lee
9. Tommy Milligan
10. Jim Watt

By Brian Doogan

• **Benny Lynch** could lick any flyweight put in front of him, but he licked himself by his most threatening adversary, alcoholism. His combative skills, concussive power, and cordial manner made him the idol of Scotland. He won partial recognition as champion by knocking out Jackie Brown in 1935, then gained universal acceptance with a brilliant points victory over Small Montana in '37. He made two defenses, including an epic struggle against Peter Kane, before losing the crown because of his to make weight. Drink dissipated his body, and he died of malnutrition at age 33.

• **Ken Buchanan's** upbringing in the harsh urban surroundings of Edinburgh fostered a man consumed by paranoia and pride. He fused these traits to build a distinguished career, the highlight of which was an upset decision over defending lightweight champion Ismael Laguna in 1970. Possessing a masterly jab, he was a classic one-two puncher. He made two defenses before being halted by the legendary Roberto Duran in 1972.

• **Jackie Paterson** was the first southpaw to win the world flyweight crown; in 1943, he required just 61 seconds to take the title from England's Peter Kane. His victory prompted comparisons with the revered Lynch. Unfortunately, he proved similar to Lynch for all the wrong reasons. He began to experience weight problems and was knocked out by Jackie Monaghan after boiling down to make 112 pounds. A compulsion for

...weight great Ken Buchanan

bling emptied his pockets, and he moved to South Africa, where he became involved in a streetfight and was killed at age 46.

• **Walter McGowan** was blessed with astonishing hands, but had virtually no natural resistance to cuts. That deficiency blighted what could have been an acclaimed career. A superb amateur, he turned pro at 18 and knocked out Jackie Brown to gain the British and Commonwealth titles. In 1966, he outpointed Salvatore Burruni for the WBC title, which he lost six months later on cuts to Thailand's Chartchai Chionoi. He also lost the rematch, then retired at age 27 after failing to secure a third try at the title.

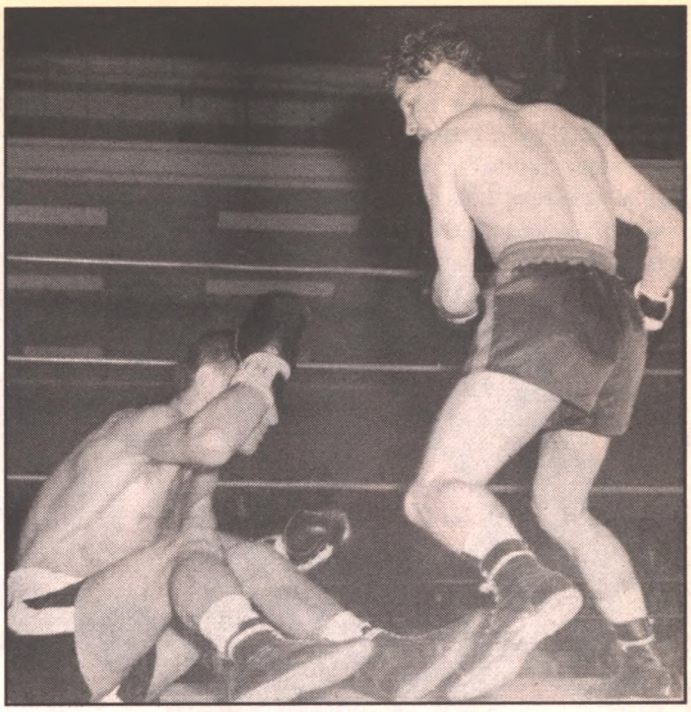
• **Johnny Hill** may have become a celebrated champion had illness not intervened and taken his life at age 23. Bereft of power, Hill compensated with intelligent and precise punches and annexed the British flyweight belt in his 14th pro fight. He decisioned Spider Pladner for the ...ean title in 1928, and outpointed Newsboy Brown to capture the ...mia State world title in '29. He died three months after his last fight.

...Peter Keenan's Glaswegian toughness once saw him call then-heavy... champion Sonny Liston to order at a party. Liston forcefully ...ded Keenan refrain from smoking in his presence, to which Keenan ...ered that he had never lost a fight in the street. To that, Liston backed ...Keenan was British, Commonwealth, and European bantamweight ...pion. In 1952, he almost wrested the world title from Vic Toweel, los... ...points. He retired in 1959, following a loss to Freddie Gilroy.

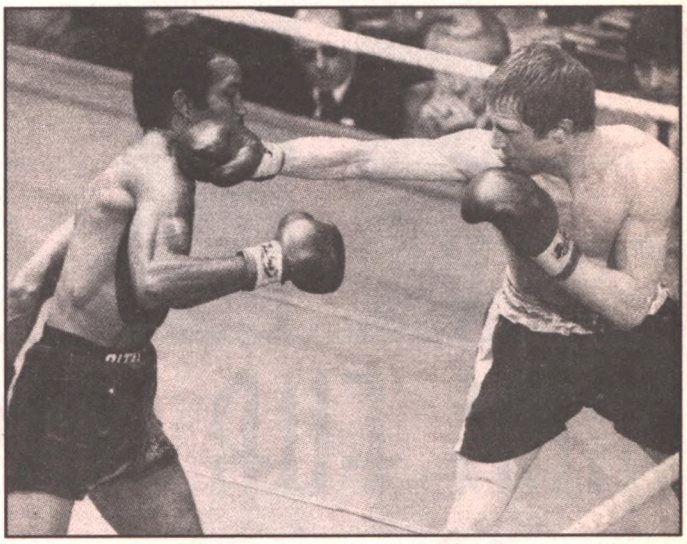
...James Hall was a typically British stand-up boxer who carried little ... He served in the Royal Navy during World War I and won a handful ...naments contested between all sections of the armed forces. A points ...on over Ernie Rice in 1922 earned him the British and European light... ...titles, which he lost to Harry Mason a year later.

...Yancy Lee did not turn pro until he was 28, but became one of the ...ged few to register a victory against the legendary Jimmy Wilde. Lee ...the British flyweight title by stopping the mighty Welshman in 1915 ...7). He lost the belt to Joe Symonds later that year, and was stopped in ...atch vs. Wilde. He subsequently won the British featherweight title ...ired at age 44. Lee was killed by a car during a World War II air-raid ...ot.

...Tommy Milligan became British welterweight champion by out... ...g an aging Ted "Kid" Lewis in 1924. A fair thumper and a coura... ...fighter, he went on to collect the British and European middleweight ... In 1927, he heroically, albeit unsuccessfully, challenged world 160... ...d champion Mickey Walker, who stopped him in the 10th round in ...on. Milligan rebounded to halt future world light heavyweight titlist Maxie Rosenbloom. A first-round kayo loss to Frank Moody signaled his demise.



British Empire bantamweight champion Peter Keenan floors Italy's Frederico Scarponi during their rumble in 1956. Keenan won on points. He fought once for the world title, losing a decision to Vic Toweel in 1952.



Jim Watt's sterling jab carried him all the way to the world title. In April 1979, the southpaw won the vacant WBC lightweight title by stopping Colombia's Alfredo Pitalua in Glasgow. Watt made four successful defenses, including wins over Howard Davis Jr. and Sean O'Grady.

•**Jim Watt** didn't fully blossom until the distinguished twilight of his career. The southpaw initially became British lightweight titleholder in 1972, but three years later succumbed to the superb Buchanan on points. In 1977, he won the European title. He made three defenses, then, in '79, stopped Alfredo Pitalua to capture the WBC title that had been vacated by Roberto Duran. He defended four times before being decisioned by Alexis Arguello. A solid-punching, technically adept boxer, Watt has developed into an incisive boxing analyst for ITV. ■

Brian Doogan is The Ring's correspondent in Great Britain.

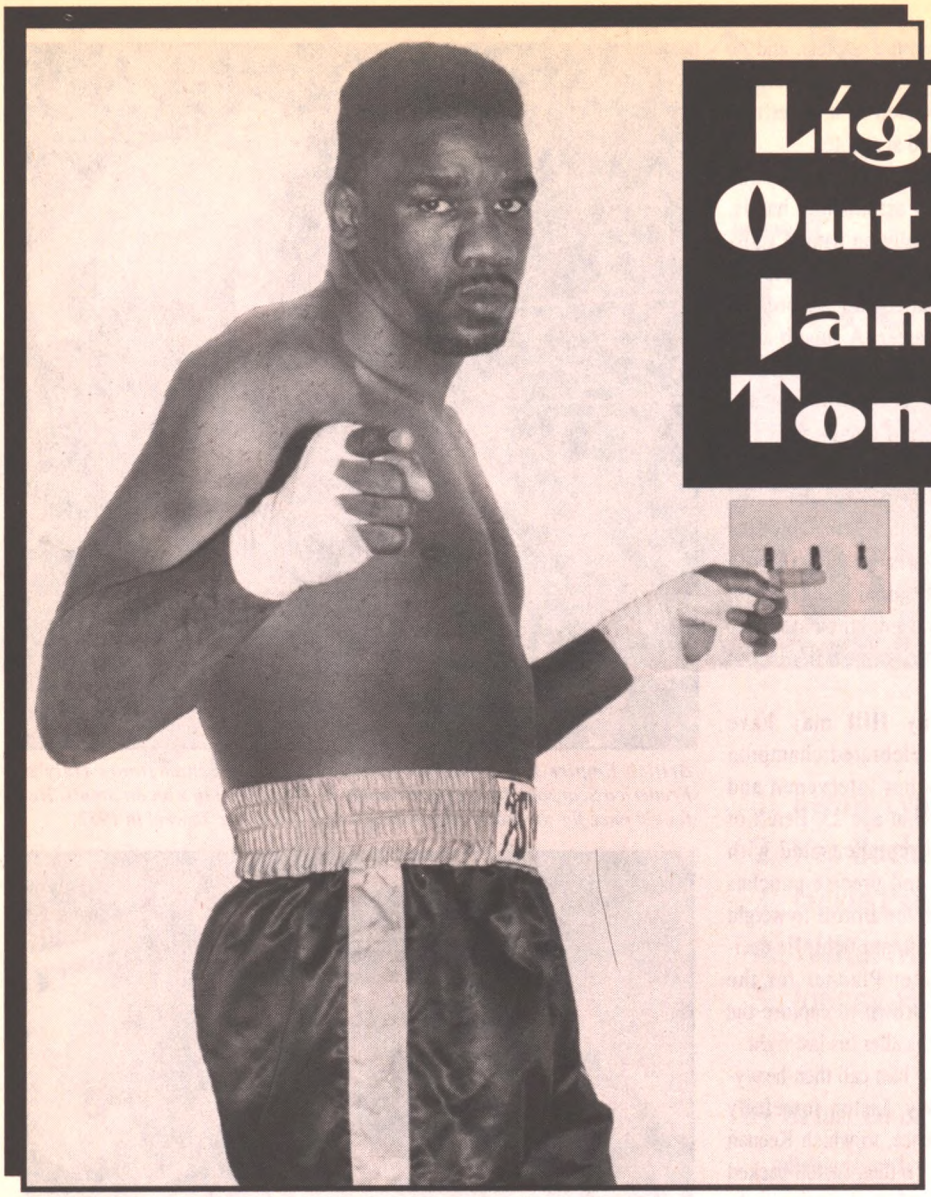


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

Lights Out For James Toney?

PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS AIMS FOR SUPERSTARDOM

By Nigel Collins

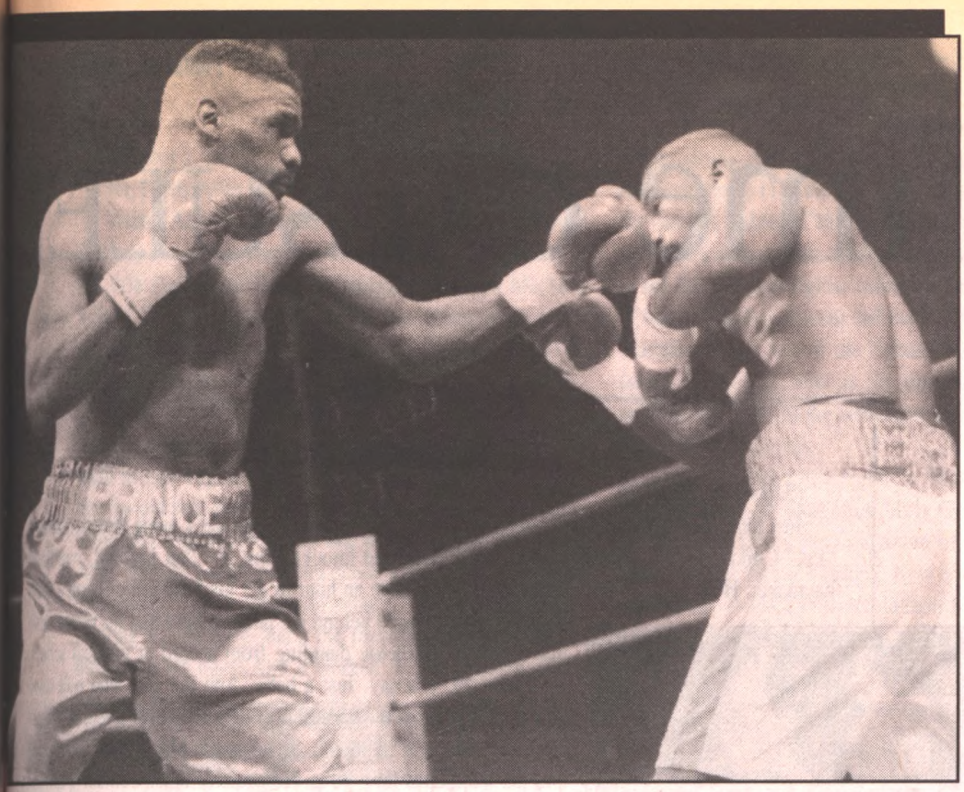
Sometimes a great notion …

Frustrated by the way things were going, Prince Charles Williams racked his brain for an idea that would elevate his career to the next level. Finally, he had a flash of inspiration and reached for the telephone. Jackie Kallen wasn't home when he called, but Williams left a message.

"Hi, Jackie. This is Prince Charles Williams. How about a fight between me and James Toney? Give a call and let me know what you think."

It was somewhat of a radical concept, especially at the time he placed the call. That was back in early-1993, just *before* German southpaw Henry Maske relieved Williams of the IBF light heavyweight title. Toney had only recently moved up from the 160-pound ranks to capture the IBF 168-pound title, and a match with the 175-pound champion seemed quite a stretch, even for a fighter of Toney's capabilities. But now, more than a year since Williams plante seed, his brainstorm has become a reality Rank and HBO have scheduled the bout fo 29 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

"I was looking for a fight that would m me a superstar," said the 31-year-old Willia wanted to do something that would finally me the credit I think I deserve. I could neve a really big fight when I was light heavyw champion. I signed to fight Michael Mo when he had the WBO title, and that fell thr



...ce losing the IBF light heavyweight title to Henry Maske, Williams has been sharp. Last June, he scored a seventh-...nd TKO of Art Baylis. Williams says dropping down to super middleweight will not be a problem for him.

...d I could never get Virgil Hill into the ring. So ...gured fighting Toney might be the answer."

Even during his reign as IBF light heavy...ght ruler, which lasted more than five years ...d included eight successful defenses, Williams ...s considered one of the best-kept secrets in ...ing. He won the title with a high-profile ...ckout of Bobby Czyz in October '87, but six ...his next 12 bouts were in Europe, and despite ...e fact insiders generally considered him the ...est 175-pounder in the world, his star never ...e to the anticipated heights.

"I couldn't get the fights I wanted, so I had to ...k my bags and go overseas," he explained.

An inability to obtain marquee matches ...n't Williams' only dilemma. He broke his ...d hand three times, resulting in two operations ...d several lengthy layoffs. According to his ...ner, Marty Feldman, when Williams dropped ...12-round decision and the title to Maske in ...arch '93, his left hand was still atrophied from ...ing been in a cast.

"The fight was too soon after the last opera...n," claimed Feldman, who trained former ...hiladelphia middleweight contender Frank "The ...mal" Fletcher. "But they were threatening to ...p him, and if they stripped him, he wouldn't ...ve gotten paid. So we went ahead and fought. ...was a close fight anyway, and if Charles had ...d two hands, been able to throw the left hook, he'd still be champ."

Williams' hand problems began while sparring with Dave Tiberi, when Tiberi was prepping for his controversial fight with Toney in February '92. Helping his stablemate get ready for his big chance proved a costly favor. Williams estimates that during what amounted to almost two years of inactivity, medical expenses and lost purses added up to well over $1-million.

Williams says the hand is fine now, and it certainly looked that way in his last bout, a 10th-round knockout of previously undefeated Ernest "M-16" Mateen. It was a convincing outing against a strong, young prospect, the kind of performance that should boost interest in the Toney fight. Particularly impressive was the way Williams, 36-5-2 (27), used his troublesome left hand to pummel Mateen, 21-1 (8), into submission.

If there's going to be a physical problem in the Toney fight, it probably won't involve the hand. At a time when fighters are moving up in weight much faster than they count calories, Williams is bucking the trend by moving *down*. This could turn out to be a major advantage for Toney, if his challenger is weakened making weight.

"It's not gonna be a big problem," said Williams, who hasn't come in as light as 168 since 1979. "I was down to 171 when I stopped Art Baylis last year. I was only 173 for Mateen. Actually, I've always been a natural super middleweight. I just fought at light heavyweight because there were more opportunities in that division at the time."

Will there be any modification in his training regimen?

"The training will remain the same," said Feldman. "The soda intake will change."

Soda intake?

"Yeah, I have a soda in my hand practically all the time," said Williams, laughing sheepishly. "I'm not sure how many I drink, but it's probably 12, 13 a day."

We've all got our little weaknesses, but 12 or 13 sodas a day? Isn't that a tad excessive?

"The sugar become fats and the salt causes you to retain fluids," interjected Feldman. "Before, when he was fighting at light heavy, it didn't matter that much. This fight, he's on a no-soda diet. Those extra pounds were all liquids."

There will be little opportunity for Williams

(Continued on page 76)

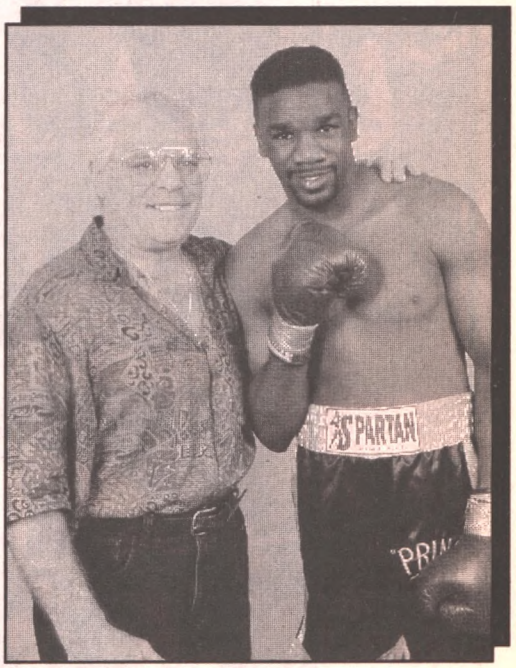


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

Trainer Marty Feldman refuses to reveal Williams' strategy for the Toney fight. Feldman prepared Dave Tiberi for his try at Toney. You can be sure that pressure will be part of the Prince's plan.

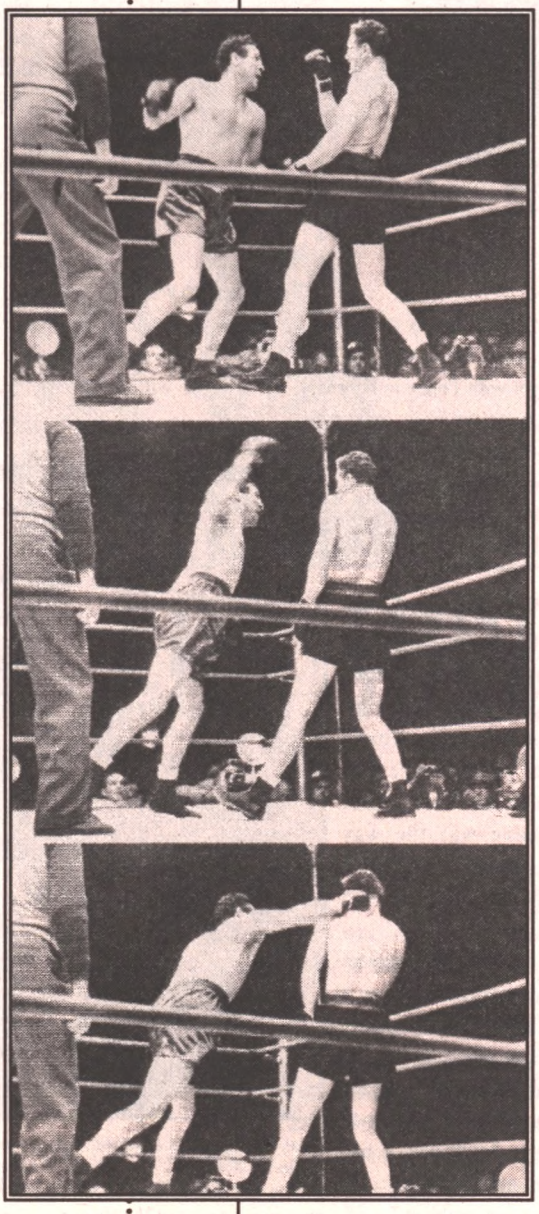
By Stanley Weston
Publisher, THE RING Magazine

Time CAPSULES

TELEGRAPH HILL

(September 26, 1940)

Just look at this picture sequence. You've got to wonder how in God's name Patrick Edward "Pat" Comiskey allowed himself to get nailed, and knocked out, by that looping, overhand haymaker. Hell, he had what seemed to be more than an hour to get his head out of harm's way. But no, he gets tagged behind the neck so hard that his bones rattle like those of a skeleton dangling from a cord at medical school. He's only 19, you say. Just a baby. And the guy who pole-axed him is surely one of the hardest punchers who ever lived. A former world heavyweight champion. So what that Maxie Baer is 31 years old, his salad days long gone. He can still crack cement with that right hand of his.



A solidly pro-Comiskey crowd of 19,758 shelled out $68,575 for the right to shove into Jersey City, New Jersey's ancient and historic Roosevelt Stadium. Baer was 16 pounds heavier (223½ to 207½). The only edge Pat had going into the ring was in the eyes of the bookmakers: A 7-5 favorite, Comiskey's ring record was surprisingly impressive for a 19-year-old—25 knockouts in 30 bouts, with only one defeat. But old Maxie was also on a roll; he had racked up three knockouts in a row, the last a total destruction of Tony Galento.

If the former champion could get past Comiskey, he would be in line for a title shot at champion Joe Louis. "The very thought of getting into the ring with Louis again, after the way Joe crucified Maxie five years ago, is reason enough for Baer to have mixed emotions about victory over Comiskey," wrote influential columnist Jack Miley. "I doubt that Maxie would allow himself to be in the same country with Joe Louis, let alone in the same ring with the killer from Detroit."

But the way Baer exploded out of his corner at the opening bell put the lie on Miley's insulting commentary. Without wasting time by pecking jabs at Comiskey, Maxie immediately began unloading the one weapon that had made him famous and champion of the world, his brain-numbing right fist. Every time his right landed, even on seemingly invulnerable targets like the arms, Pat staggered for a few seconds before retreating into a clinch. But it was the looping, telegraphed right that had the arc of a Bobby Jones niblick shot shown in this picture sequence, that paralyzed Comiskey and sent him reeling against the ropes, cowering, turning his back toward the raging Baer in a desperate effort to survive. It was at this point that referee Jack Dempsey wisely stepped in to save Patrick from total annihilation. The time: 2:39 of the first round.

THE FINE ART OF RIDING THE STOOL

(October 2, 1883)

No, Teddy Atlas wasn't the first one.

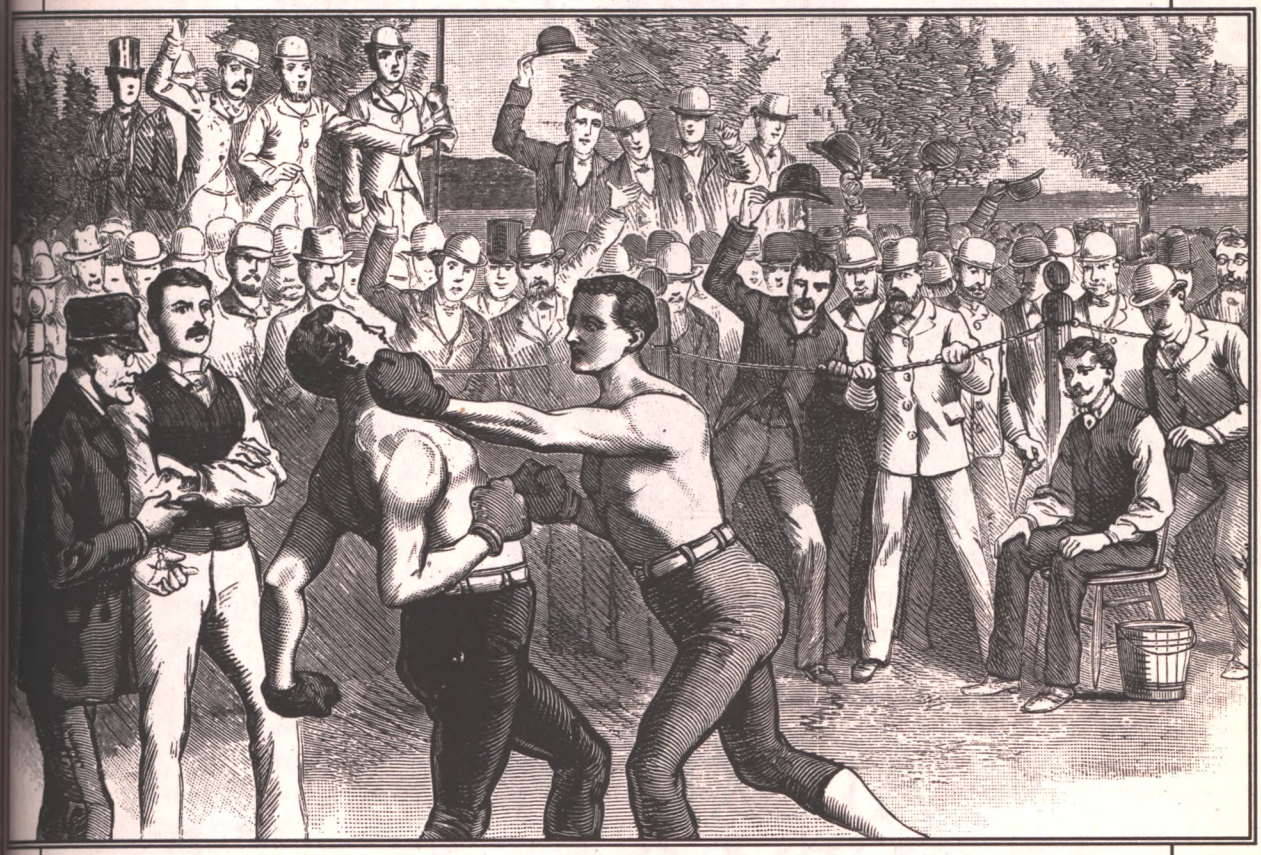
Trainer Atlas was furious when Michael Moorer moved listlessly toward his corner at the end of the eighth round of his title fight with Evander Holyfield. When Michael arrived, he was astonished to see Atlas sitting on *his* stool, glaring daggers. "If you don't want to do what it takes to be champion, let me do it!" Teddy barked.

The heavyweight championship of the world, and the millions of dollars that go with it, were at stake that April night in Las Vegas. Defending champion Holyfield looked like his old self only in rare flashes. He was ripe for being dethroned. But according to the win-or-die philosophy of Atlas, Moorer wasn't pouring enough coal into the furnace. The trainer's icy expression seemed to say, "My guy is dogging it." At least that's the message he wanted to get through to his tiger. And it worked. Moorer sprung to life and piled up enough points to become the new world champion.

The crowning of a new heavyweight champion is always a historic event. But this particular throne-swap was unique; never before had one of the contestants returned to his corner at the end of a round and found his stool occupied.

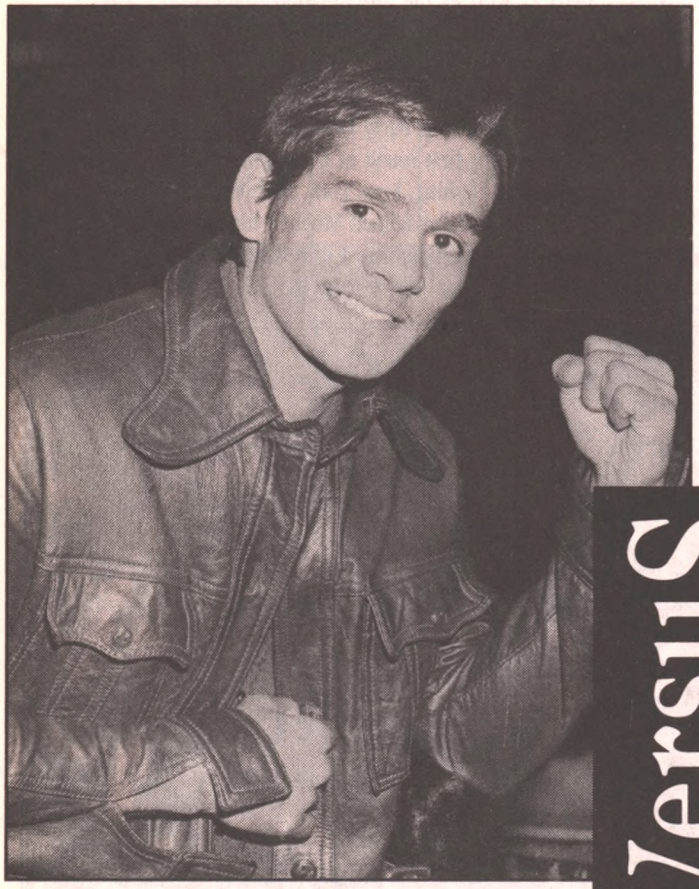
You have to go way, way back to find mention of a corner-sitting trainer or second. To find visual proof, we had to dig back 111 years, to 1883. This line drawing shows the famous trainer of that time, Arthur Chambers, calmly seated in a corner while the fight is going on. But Chambers is not the only non-fighter inside the ring during the height of battle. Standing directly behind him is trainer Joe Acton. Standing to the left of the fighters is referee Harry Hill (arms folded) as well as the unidentified timekeeper pointing his watch at the contestants, making a virtual army of six within the ropes.

Let's not forget the fighters. That's England's great Charley Mitchell staggering burly German heavyweight William Sherriff in the first round of a six-round gloved contest on the turf at Flushing, New York, 10 miles east of Manhattan. Referee Hill proclaimed Mitchell the winner, but later changed his mind and ruled it a draw. Mitchell, who fought as a heavyweight at only 165 pounds, had gained worldwide fame five months before the Sherriff brawl when he became the first man to knock the great John L. Sullivan off his feet. In 1888, Mitchell would hold the mighty Sullivan to a 39-round draw.



Should Teddy Atlas happen to see how trainers bided their time between rounds a century ago, he might consider keeping the stool occupied throughout the next fight, sharing it with his tiger of the evening.

WHAT IF...



ROBERTO DURAN

VersuS

ALEXIS ARGUELLO

Most of boxing's best matchups are realized. But not all of them. For a variety of reasons, including timing, injuries, and promotional concerns, the fights we most want to see—the fights that could change history—sometimes fail to materialize. When that

What if Rocky Marciano had fought Floyd Patterson? Here are some of the answers.

THE WAY IT WAS

During the '70s, boxing experienced one of its periodic revivals that, thankfully, always seem to arrive about the same time as the announcement of the demise of the sport. The heavyweight division was as deep as it had ever been, with Muhammad Ali establishing himself as a living legend with the aid of a supporting cast that included, among others, Joe Frazier, George Foreman, and Ken Norton. Great fighters, however, weren't to be found only among the big boys. In fact, two of the best fighters of the era, Roberto Duran and Alexis Arguello, fought at the lighter weights.

A ferocious lightweight king with the killer stare and hands of stone, Duran dominated the division and unified the title. Historians, who had previously debated the relative merits of Benny Leonard and Joe Gans, were suddenly including Duran in their analysis of the greatest lightweights of all-time.

Unusually tall for a featherweight, Arguello earned the nickname "The Explosive Thin Man" by blasting out opponent after opponent. At 126 pounds, he controlled his division much as Duran did at 135 pounds.

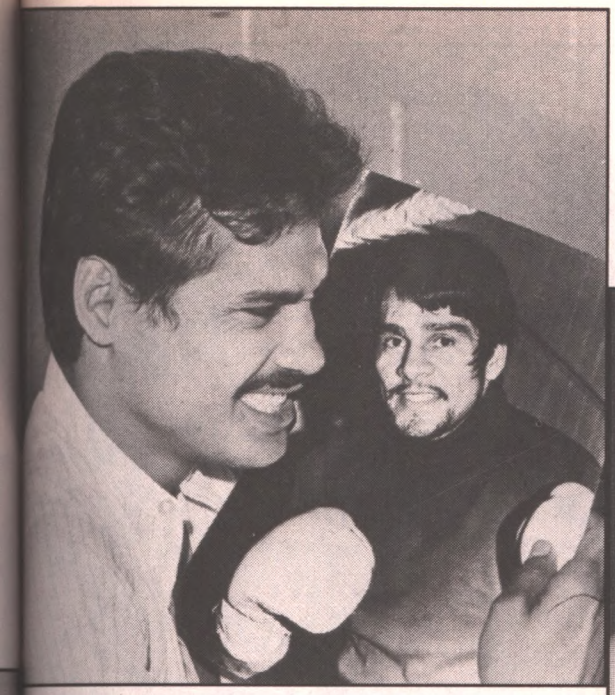
By 1978, Duran and Arguello had run out of challengers in their respective divisions. Duran was still fighting as a lightweight, though making 135 pounds was becoming a chore. Arguello, on the other hand, had vacated the throne and claimed the WBC super featherweight title by stopping Alfredo Escalera in the 13th round. A showdown between the two dynamic little giants seemed inevitable. Said Teddy Brenner, matchmaker at Madison Square Garden, "This guy [Arguello] would knock out Duran any time."

The speculation slowly faded when Duran began to fight at junior welterweight, and then welterweight. Big-money showdowns loomed with Carlos Palomino and Sugar Ray Leonard. As for Arguello, there were plenty of attractive opponents at 130 pounds, including Escalera, Bazooka Limon, and Bobby Chacon. A fight with Duran could wait.

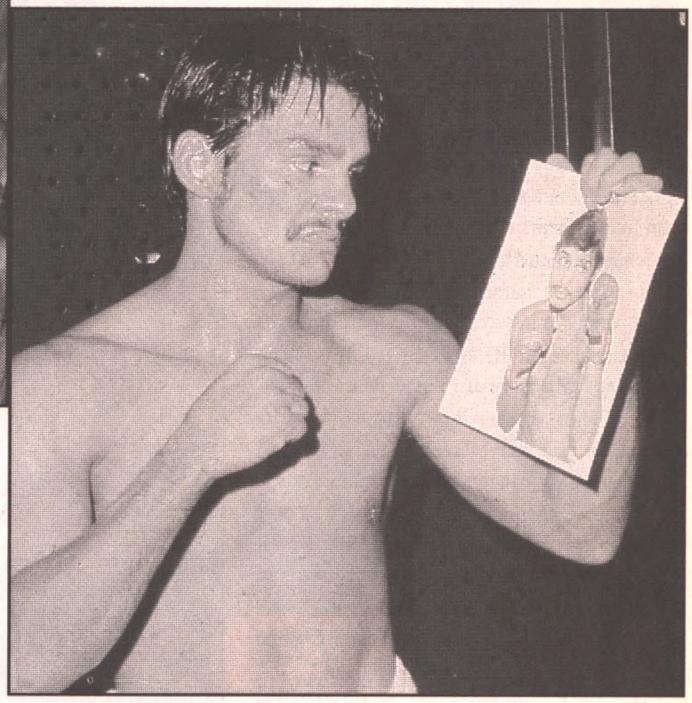
As it would turn out, Duran would make millions in superfights vs. Leonard, Thomas Hearns, and Marvin Hagler. Arguello would reign supreme at junior lightweight before winning the WBC lightweight crown from Jim Watt in 1981. After a successful run at 135, he'd twice suffer stoppage defeats at the hands of WBA junior welterweight champion Aaron Pryor.

Duran and Arguello would never meet.

(Continued on page 78)



...n and Arguello were keenly aware of each other. Ever the gentleman, ...llo never talked trash. But Duran voiced his desire to knock out his ... and prove he was the best Latin fighter in the world.



...ess, we're left with our imaginations, which ...s for never-ending conjecture and delightful ...te.

...With the help of Jim Trunzo, boxing's fore... computer programmer, and TKO ...ssional Boxing, by Lance Haffner Games, ...Ring has once again decided to play match... (In 1991, Trunzo helped us with "THE ...All-Time Computer Tournament.")

...The computer program runs in compiled ... and consists of several thousand lines of ... More than two-dozen routines and sub... ...es cross-check such factors as ring posi... ...he fighters' physical condition, accumulat... ...mage, status of cuts, and special strategy, if ...hat is used. In addition, almost 100 vari... ...are constantly monitored during a given ...

...'ve presented Trunzo with a handful of ... matchups, fights that could have taken ...but never did. His program considers more ...00 variables, and he runs the matchups ...h his computer 20 times each. What if Jack ...psey had fought Harry Wills? What if ...rto Duran had fought Alexis Arguello?

FORMER LIGHTWEIGHT CHAM
MANDO RAMOS

By Pete Ehrmann

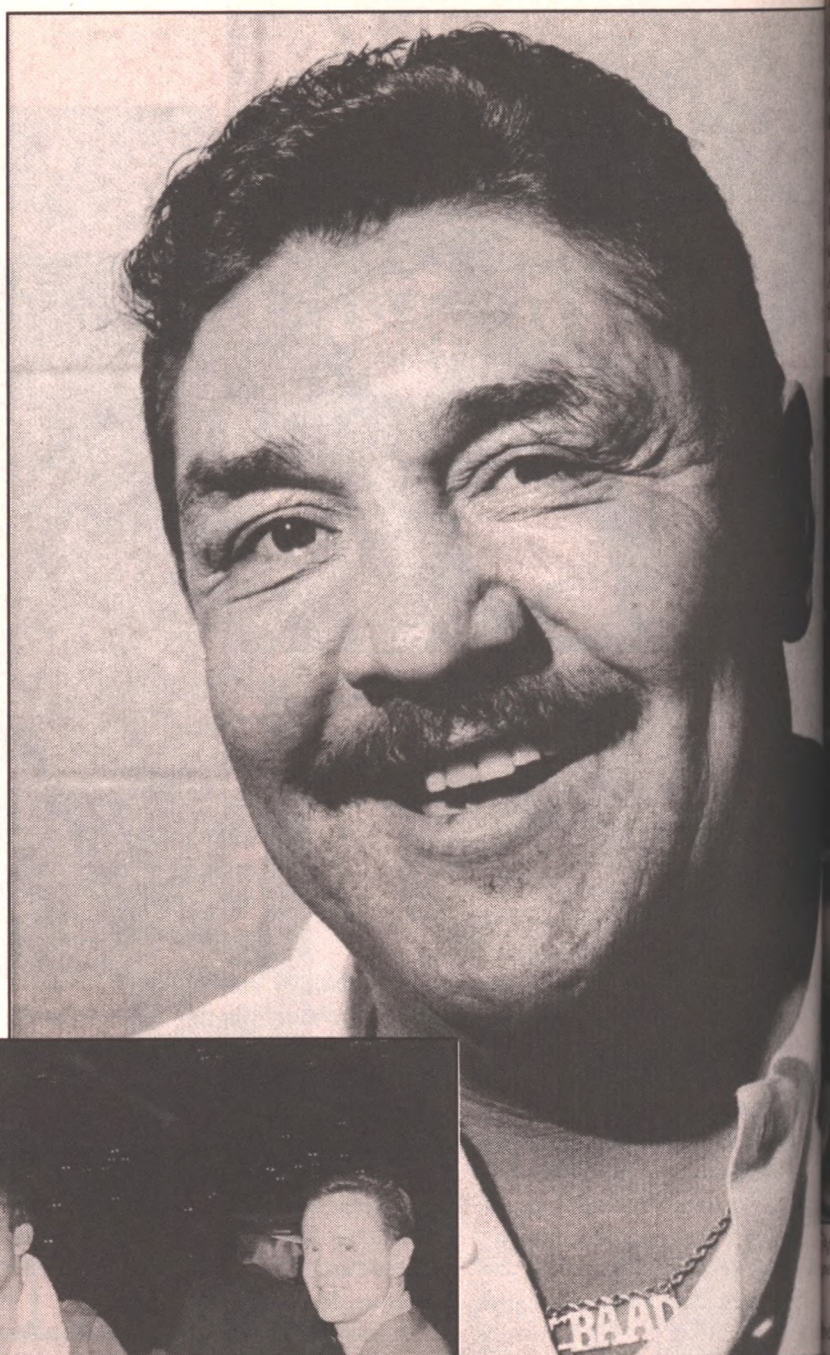
They carried the former lightweight champion of the world into the ring on a stretcher and dumped him on the canvas. When he rolled over, there was a bottle of whiskey in one hand and a bag of white pills in the other.

Mando Ramos was as ready to fight as he'd ever been.

Ramos' dramatic entrance for his exhibition with former featherweight and junior lightweight contender Ruben Castillo at last year's World Boxing Hall of Fame "Night Of Champions" was a parody of his condition for most of the 49 professional fights Ramos engaged in between 1965 and '75. The booze was actually tea, and the pills were marshmallows. But the 45-year-old Californian, who twice held the 135-pound world title, was making a serious point.

"I never fought a fight without using alcohol or drugs," says Ramos. "When I fought Ismael Laguna, I don't know how they even let me in the ring, I was doing so much cocaine. I was shooting heroin before my fight with Chango Carmona. I was so loaded and spaced out."

He says his condition was no secret to the



After taking the lightweight title from Teo C in 1969, Ramos is acknowledged by legen ring announcer Jimmy Lennon Sr. On the is Ramos' trainer, Jackie McCoy.

"I FOUGHT ON COCAINE AND HEROIN"

...ple putting on the fights: "The people ...ved in boxing don't care. They'll stick you ...ring anyway. I was using alcohol and drugs ...day. Everybody knew it, but when there's ...much money involved, who cares?"

...Clean and sober for the last 11 years, the one-...had boy of boxing is now known as "Mr. ...D" to the young gang members and hard ...s he coaches and counsels in the Los ...les area. Most of them suffer, as he did, ...what Ramos describes as "emotional can-... It is a disease, he firmly believes, for which ...g is a cure. BAAD stands for Boxers ...t Alcohol And Drugs, an organization ...d by Ramos in 1983—the year he got ...t—to give young people a positive outlet ...e self-esteem that was non-existent in his ...outh.

"I grew up with this emotional cancer," says ..., "I grew up in an alcoholic environment. I was a compulsive procrastinator, a compulsive overeater, everything. I always smoked weed because I was thought it was all right to do so. Every day on my way to the gym, I smoked weed. I thought it was a lot of fun. Then I got into harder drugs."

His father and an older brother, Manuel, had been boxers. "I've been boxing since I was born," he says. "I was around gyms from the time I was three, four years old."

Jackie McCoy, one of the most successful handlers on the West Coast, trained Ramos and calls him "my favorite fighter of all-time."

"Mando used to stand around when his brother was working out and say things like, 'Man, I could whip that chump [whoever Manuel was sparring with] now,'" recalls McCoy. "I had him in the Junior Golden Gloves tournament, and when he turned 17, he got a phony I.D. and we turned him pro."

"What it was about," says Ramos, "was pleasing people, not myself. I remember my second fight, on a big card at the Olympic Auditorium headlined by Luis Rodriguez. I fought a guy named Chuey Loera. He pushed me and threw me right on my back. The place was packed, and I saw everybody stand up. The first thing I thought of was, *What do people think?* I went in there with both fists and knocked him out. Just to please people."

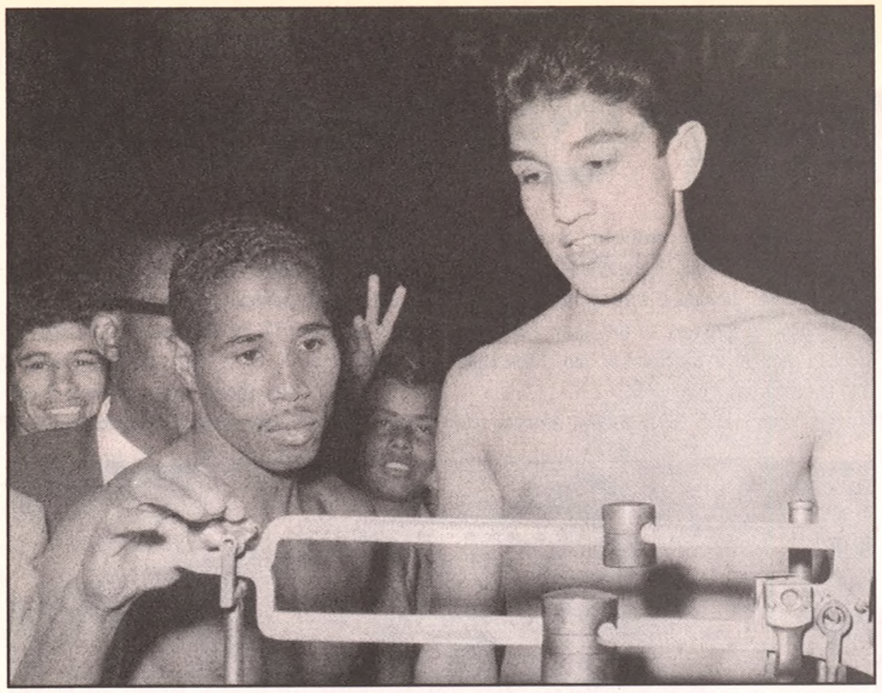
In almost every fight, Ramos gave the fans what they wanted: blood and guts. Believe it or not, he won this battle, a decision over Sugar Ramos in 1970.

...winning the lightweight title for the first time, Ramos successfully defended against former 130-...world champion Yoshiaki Numata, scoring a sixth-round kayo at the Sports Arena in LA.

Ramos' fighting pleased a lot of people. "Having this emotional cancer made me a tough son of a gun," he says. "When I started throwing punches, I did not stop until you were down."

Adds McCoy, "He'd fight a gorilla and think he was a cinch to win."

Young, handsome, and charismatic, Ramos became the new Golden Boy of West Coast boxing. And, he says, "the highest-paid teenager in the world." When he boxed at the Olympic, the sold-out sign usually went up early.



Ramos says he trained on cocaine for his title defense against Panama's Ismael Laguna in March 1970. Laguna took the title via ninth-round stoppage. It was amazing Ramos lasted as long as he did.

"There's no telling how great he co
been," says McCoy. "I've never, ever see
with the natural ability he had as a young

McCoy recalls when Ramos outp
reigning world junior lightweight cha
Hiroshi Kobayashi in a non-title fight i
The victory put him in the top spot as ma
challenger for the 130-pound crown.

"Hey, I don't want to fight for any
title," he told McCoy. "Get me [lighte
champion] Carlos Ortiz."

"Here he was, 18 years old, and you
he'd be thrilled [with the title shot]," says M
"Instead, he thought that was *beneath* him."

Ortiz lost the title to Carlos Teo Cru
after one unsuccessful try at the Dom
champion, Ramos stopped Cruz in Februar
to become, at age 20, the youngest lightw
champion in history.

"It was no big deal for me," says Ramo
a child growing up, I was going to become
weight champion of the world for my fathe
[when I won the title] he and I weren't talk
each other."

late-'60s, Ramos was a teenage sensation and the hottest fistic attraction in boxing-crazy n California. This scene is after Ramos beat Cruz for his first title.

In his second defense, Ramos lost the crown to Panama's Laguna in March 1970. He says he trained on cocaine. "My insane mind told me that if I stayed up all night and concentrated on what I'd do to this guy, I'd kill him," he recalls. At the weigh-in, Ramos was wraith-like. "My eyes were sunk back into my head," he says. "Still, it was a close fight. I'd have beaten the guy, except I couldn't throw a punch."

Kayo in nine for Laguna.

Asked about the bout and Ramos' assertion that he fought in a white-powder stupor, McCoy says, "I just have to take his word for it. I don't doubt it." Oddly enough, adds the trainer, as the fight went past the halfway mark, "it looked like [Ramos] might have come on and stopped Laguna. [But then] he got hit with one punch and looked over at me and said, 'F___ it.'"

Ramos' next fight, five months later, was against former featherweight champion Sugar Ramos. The night before, Ramos was in a hotel room smoking marijuana when featherweight contender Frankie Crawford came to see him.

"Man!" exclaimed Crawford, eying Ramos' joint, "you are *crazy*!"

"It works for me," Ramos told him, and the next day he whipped Sugar Ramos over 10 rounds.

A while later, Crawford went to Japan for a world title fight. He was no druggie, but seeing how his friend had gotten high the night before his fight with Sugar Ramos and come out on top, Crawford did the same thing.

"He got his butt handed to him," says Ramos. "The crazy things I'd done, I thought they were a riot."

When asked about his fighter's drug use, McCoy says, "Hey, who knows? It could be true. I don't think so. In the beginning he trained hard. He could outrun everybody. If he says that, how do I know it's not true? He sure didn't fight like it. He definitely did use a lot of drugs [later in his career]. It's a miracle he was able to do as well as he did, the way he lived."

Incredibly, Ramos won a second world title in February 1972, beating Spain's Pedro Carrasco for the WBC lightweight belt—and coming off an extended drunk to do it.

"I fought five [actually eight] world title fights and trained a total of 10 days for them," says Ramos. "The rest of the time I was on a drunk."

(Continued on page 79)

In February 1972, Ramos regained the WBC 135-pound crown, scoring a split decision over Spain's Pedro Carrasco, who entered the ring with one loss in 106 bouts. Once again, however, Ramos' reign would be a brief one.

Perhaps matchmaker Don Chargin had the right idea; Ramos rarely trained, even for the biggest fights of his career. Yet he was successful.

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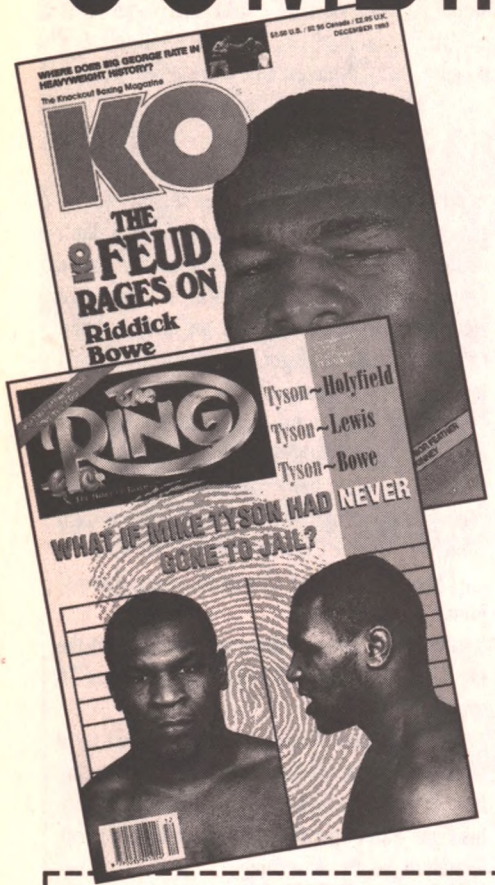

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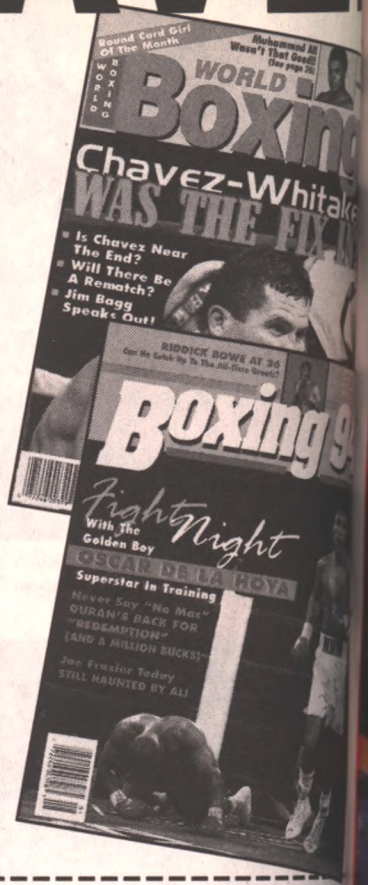

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HOW MICHAEL MOORER DEFEATED EVANDER HOLYFIELD

Holyfield seemed confused by Moorer's southpaw stance, and the challenger repeatedly scored with his right hand.

By Teddy Atlas

Editor's note: Teddy Atlas, 37, is a New York City-based trainer. A disciple of Cus D'Amato, he trained Mike Tyson as an amateur and has worked with, among others, Don Lalonde, Joey Gamache, Barry McGuigan, and Simon Brown. In addition to newly crowned WBA/IBF heavyweight champion Michael Moorer, Atlas currently trains unbeaten heavyweight prospect Shannon Briggs.

During Moorer's title fight victory over Evander Holyfield, Atlas was relentless, driving his fighter and demanding the challenger's best. His between-rounds speeches will undoubtedly become part of boxing lore. After the bout, Atlas received almost as much attention as Moorer. We asked him to share his thoughts from the night of April 22 with THE RING.

During the week before the fight, someone said to me, "Why don't you pray to God?" I told him I would never do that,

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Photo by Tom Casino

Moorer won the fight with his jab, which was exactly what trainer Teddy Atlas had planned. "Without disrespecting him," Atlas said, "I felt Evander was a sucker for a jab."

that God gave me two healthy children, and all I'd pray to God for was their health. But at the start of the 12th round I found myself praying to my father, who passed away last November. I had never done that before. I just said, "I know you're there, and it's time to show you it wasn't all worthless." This is what all the years were for. When someone graduates from school, he gets to wear a robe, gets a diploma. There had never been anything like that for me. My father, who was a physician, and stronger than any fighter I've ever known, had always been so supportive; he never, ever made me feel small. During that moment I just wanted to show him. And it wasn't worth it unless Michael won.

I didn't want to be known as Mike Tyson's first trainer. I felt cheap about that; I wasn't then when Mike won the title. I wanted my own title. When Michael Buffer took the microphone, I was afraid to hear what the ring announcer would say. I almost didn't dare listen, but I had to listen, just like a fighter has to throw punches. I was just looking for that word "new ... "

***

On the whole, with everything being relative, Michael's camp was probably the greatest training camp he ever had. And that's the judgment of people who've been with him a lot longer than me, like (manager) John Davimos and (promoter) Bill Kozerski. But there were bumpy spots we had to get through. We were set up outdoors in Palm Springs, right next to Sonny Bono's restaurant. One day Michael says he's not gonna train. I just stood in his way as he tried to leave. Another time something was bothering him and he put everyone on notice that he wasn't gonna run the next morning. (I had him getting up at 6 a.m.) He called me at 10 p.m. and I walked over to his room. I stayed until the next morning, until he left to run. If I had given in once, I would've been useless. In his eyes, I wouldn't have been strong enough to deal with him and the pressure he was feeling. He was testing me. If he was gonna lean on me through this journey, he wanted to know if I'd hold up when things got difficult.

Michael is not always as secure with himself as his persona might suggest. We all have insecurities, but we don't all have to go in there and fight, where it shows up so dramatically. In other fields, it can be masked more easily. I knew Holyfield was gonna show up, respond to the moment. Hit him and he'll hit you back. My guy had never been in this position before. The questions were about Michael. I told him, "You have to be strong for 36 minutes, not five years or two weeks. And those 36 minutes will determine the rest of your life. If you falter, those 36 minutes will go by so fast. Then those 36 minutes will become 20 years because you'll think about it the next day, the day after, the year after, and the year after that."

So that it all didn't seem new, we went over everything in camp, even what to think about while he was waiting for Evander to enter the ring. I told him to think, "This is the last time I'll be waiting." I didn't want to leave anything untouched. I refused the last few days to leave him alone, even when he was in his room listening to music. I didn't want him to shut down and then go into the ring a zombie. I didn't want

WHAT'S A KNOCKDOWN WORTH?

No one knew it at the time, of course, but when Jerry Roth, one of the most respected judges in boxing, scored round two of Moorer-Holyfield 10-10, he contributed significantly to the outcome—and guaranteed a postfight controversy. Had Roth scored for Holyfield, who floored Moorer toward the end of the round, the defending champion would have retained the title by majority draw. (The other judges, Chuck Giampa and Dalby Shirley, scored the round 10-9 for Holyfield.) The round-by-round numbers:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Jerry Roth													
Moorer	10	10	9	10	10	10	9	10	9	9	9	10	115
Holyfield	9	10	10	9	9	9	10	9	10	10	10	9	114
Chuck Giampa													
Moorer	9	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	9	10	9	10	116
Holyfield	10	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	10	9	10	9	112
Dalby Shirley													
Moorer	9	9	10	10	10	10	9	9	9	10	9	10	114
Holyfield	10	10	9	9	9	9	10	10	10	9	10	9	114
The Ring													
Moorer	9	9	10	10	10	10	10	9	9	10	9	10	115
Holyfield	10	10	9	9	9	9	9	10	10	10	10	9	114

THE OTHER MAN BEHIND THE MAN

Davimos: The man behind Moorer

John Davimos has always made his living managing money. Perhaps fittingly, he now manages boxing's biggest money-maker.

As manager of newly crowned heavyweight champion Michael Moorer, the Los Angeles-based Davimos has instantly become a high-profile player. But don't expect him to overshadow his fighter, a la Rock Newman. Davimos and Detroit's Bill Kozerski, who co-promotes Moorer with Dan Duva, will allow the champion to make the headlines.

Davimos, 32, entered boxing in 1988. At the time, Davimos Management was handling the money of Thomas Hearns, Donald Curry, and a number of other professional athletes. He teamed with manager/trainer Emanuel Steward, and they guided, among others, Jemal Hinton, Michael Bentt, Donald Stokes, Frank Liles, Gerald McClellan, and Moorer. Most of the fighters have since headed elsewhere. (Davimos is now in court regarding his involvement with McClellan.) But in September 1992, he bought Steward's share of Moorer's contract. Shelly Finkel joined on shortly after, but when Moorer signed for his title try at Evander Holyfield, Finkel, who has managed "The Real Deal" since the beginning of the former champion's career, chose sides, leaving Davimos as Moorer's sole manager.

Now that Moorer has won the most valuable prize in sports, does Davimos have plans to manage other fighters?

"You gotta be lucky to have the heavyweight champion of the world," he said. "What else am I gonna do? I've reached the pinnacle of the sport. I don't want to spend my life chasing it again."

—Steve Farhood

have to depend on instinct or a puncher's nce. That's a lottery.

The night before the fight a few of us went to movie. Then I sat with him before he went to d. I reminded him that in training camp he had ed everything, and that tomorrow he wouldn't e to face things as they came upon him. He d sparred every day against three fresh, quality vyweights, and unless they had changed the es, Evander couldn't go over to his corner and off so another fighter could come into the g and fight for him.

While we were in the dressing room, I sent e of the guys back to the room for a boom-box. en let Michael put on Gangsta rap, which I n't really like. I wanted the room to be alive. I d everyone there go over at some point and say ething positive to him. I also made sure he rned up good; Michael's historically been a w starter. That, and the fact that he had never en there before, made me think the first two nds were the most dangerous.

I felt the timing was right; Evander had been ough a lot of tough fights. He had just gotten ough a very emotional fight with Riddick we, and you can't keep getting up for every t. My worst fear was that I wouldn't be able get Michael to do what he had to to win. But minutes before the fight, I sensed he was na go in there and try. During the ring walk, ich is usually like a funeral procession, I was front of him and he said, "Teddy, move the eras so I can run [to the ring]." I thought that s great.

This was the biggest fight of Michael's life, but it was also the biggest fight of my life. A cold calm came over me; I was never so calm in my life. There was no room for thinking about the moment. I had spent 19 years in the business and hadn't made any money. One of the ways Cus always prodded me along was to say, "Someday you're gonna train the heavyweight champion of the world." I thought about fate a lot. That heavyweight was supposed to me named Mike. Just not this Mike.

During the introductions, I went over to Michael and pointed to Holyfield. "This is the guy," I said, "who the fight before last went life and death with Alex Stewart." I wanted to remind him Evander wasn't a fictional character, someone he had invented in his mind. Or a symbol, *the heavyweight champion of the world.* He was

Photo by Holly Stein/Allsport

In the late rounds, Holyfield looked the part of a beaten fighter. Nonetheless, only Moorer's last-round rally enabled him to capture the crown. All three judges gave the last round to the southpaw challenger.

EVANDER HOLYFIELD: AS REAL AS IT GETS

By Ron Borges

If you looked at Evander Holyfield standing inside a ring before a boxing match, you knew it was never intended for him to be the heavyweight champion of the world. His thin legs ran up to an almost-nonexistent waist. His rib cage, perfect if you wanted to be noticed at the beach, seemed frail and exposed when men who outweighed him by 30 or 40 pounds faced him with the intention of beating upon it.

Surely, this man was no heavyweight, even if the scale did say he weighed 214 pounds. That scale was fibbing, as we all hope it does. Unlike the rest of us, though, in Holyfield's case it really did, a fact that became clear when you noticed Holyfield was standing on it wearing a sweatsuit and high-topped hiking boots.

What you could not see at those moments when Holyfield would wait in his corner, smiling before a fight was to begin, was what made him more than a heavyweight. You couldn't see his heart, a heart larger than Buster Douglas' waistline.

You couldn't see it until the first bell had rung, the smile had faded, and that heart had begun to pump. This was a man with great athletic skills, to be sure, but they belonged to a light heavyweight or a cruiserweight. This man was no heavyweight. Not until the fights started.

When they did, Holyfield became the best post-Tyson heavyweight, a two-time champion who beat bigger men because at some point, every boxing match turns into a fight. And every fight, eventually, becomes a contest of wills. No man's will exceeded Holyfield's, even on the two nights he lost.

"That wrestling guy is not The Ultimate Warrior," said Riddick Bowe's manager, Rock Newman, several days after Holyfield was forced into retirement in April. "Evander is The Ultimate Warrior."

That is what makes it all the more ironic that in the end, it was his heart that betrayed him.

Two days after losing the WBA and IBF heavyweight titles to Michael Moorer via close majority decision that many disagreed with, Holyfield was told he had a congenital heart problem. A noncompliant left ventricle slowed the pumping of blood to his muscles when he was under heavy physical stress to the point that he fought Moorer "in virtual heart failure," according to his physician. But that, like the reading on the scales, was a falsehood, too. There was no way Holyfield's heart would ever fail him.

What probably had, though, was the public perception of him as something less than what he was. For most of his career, the talk always seemed to center on who Evander Holyfield was *not*.

He was not Joe Louis or Rocky Marciano, fearsome punchers with a gift for rendering a man unconscious with a single shot.

He was not Muhammad Ali, the best of heavyweights and a world

(Continued on page 70)

Photo by Nasser Khan/The Fightmaster

At the final bell, Moorer was sure he had done enough. Holyfield, on the other hand, had no idea he had just fought the last round of his career. For both men, life will never be the same.

only a person, and if you hit him, you could h
him. I told him to look at Evander's chest dur
Mills Lane's final instructions. No need to in
ate a psychological war.

What I was looking for in the first round w
the two big things we had worked on in ca
punching to the body, and the jab. I had use
tape of the Michael Dokes fight to show Mich
that Evander didn't always like it to the bo
And the Bowe fight, too. And the jab; wh
Evander bounces, you can hit him with it a
keep him off-stride so he can't throw his com
nations. Nobody had really tried the jab aga
him. Bowe had been successful in their sec
fight; he landed every jab he threw. He j
didn't use it enough. I wanted Michael to u
the jab, and he did. In the past, he had pu
with it, hoping to set up one power shot.

What happened with the knockdown in t
two was that Michael threw a left hand a
right, then didn't move. Evander countered

...w Michael wasn't hurt. When he came back ...the corner, I wanted him to immediately know ...y he got hit so we could correct it and control ... I didn't want his imagination to take over and ...r him to think he wasn't in the fight.

In the third, he started sliding and slipping ...d making Evander miss. I don't think he got ...ough credit for his defense in this fight. He ...n't get hit much. He moved his head and kept ...s hands up.

Between the third and fourth rounds, I told Michael not to come back to the corner unless he did more. I didn't want the garden to be full of weeds before I did something about it. There were opportunities to make the fight easier. On the inside, Evander likes to fall in. We had talked about it. There were two choices: to engage in a silent contract, with both fighters agreeing not to punch, or to create room and find ways to punch. Michael's furnace needed to be fed.

In the fourth, Michael landed a straight left to the body. That punch hurt Evander and helped the deterioration process along. At that point, I felt I had been right about the timing; Evander was ready to lose if Michael was ready to win. The fifth was close to a 10-8 round for Michael. What I didn't like, though, was when Michael would get a run going, he'd stop and be satisfied.

In the sixth, I realized there was a little more available than I thought there would be. Evander was always in range to be hit with the jab. A lot of people said he wasn't prepared to fight a

(Continued on page 71)

THE 10 FIGHTS THAT MADE MICHAEL MOORER

Dec. 3, 1988 KO 5 Ramzi Hassan, Cleveland: Moorer, 12-0 (12), and a pro for only nine months, wins the vacant WBO light heavyweight title by stopping 29-fight veteran Hassan. It is a competitive bout until the fifth, when Moorer devastates Hassan with a right uppercut. The Californian is against the ropes and out on his feet when the bout is stopped at the 2:32 mark.

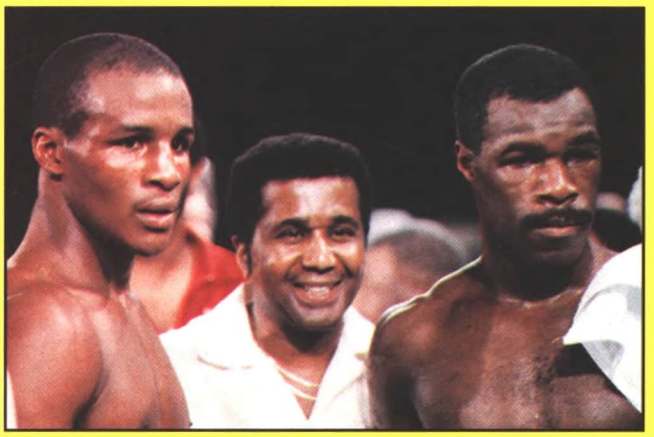
Feb. 19, 1989 KO 6 Frankie Swindell, Monessen, Pennsylvania: Fighting in his high school gymnasium, Moorer struggles before stopping the far more experienced Swindell. The reigning USBA 175-pound champion, Swindell cuts and staggers Moorer in the fourth. But Moorer breaks through in the sixth and benefits from a premature stoppage. It is Moorer's debut on national TV.

April 22, 1989 KO 1 Freddy Delgado, Auburn Hills, Michigan: In a curious crossroads matchup, Delgado, 18-0 (16), tackles Moorer, 14-0 (14), on the southpaw's home turf. The Puerto Rican attempts to walk through his opponent, but Moorer punishes him in every exchange. Delgado is issued a standing count and suffers one knockdown before the bout is stopped at the 2:39 mark.

June 25, 1989 KO 8 Leslie Stewart, Atlantic City: Moorer's toughest bout to date. Content to allow former world champion Stewart to punch in combination, a lethargic Moorer is behind on all three cards after seven rounds. His power surfaces in the eighth, and after two knockdowns, a spent Stewart is spared further abuse.

April 19, 1991 KO 2 Terry Davis, Atlantic City: Having leapfrogged over the cruiserweight division, Moorer scales 213 for his debut at heavyweight. (In his previous effort, a kayo of light heavyweight Danny Lindstrom, he weighed 175.) There are no knockdowns, but California's Davis absorbs a frightful beating before the mismatch is halted in the second.

July 27, 1991 KO 4 Alex Stewart, Norfolk, Virginia: Faced with his first tough test at heavyweight, Moorer scores his 25th kayo in 25 fights. Stewart falls twice in the first round. There's a scary moment in the second, when Stewart connects with a booming right. But Moorer quickly regains control and finishes the New Yorker with a brutal, compact combo in the fourth.



Moorer, Emanuel Steward, and Leslie Stewart

May 15, 1992 KO 5 Bert Cooper, Atlantic City: In a brawl that is selected as *KO's* Fight of the Year, Moorer rises from knockdowns in rounds one and three and finishes "Smokin' Bert" with a right uppercut-straight left combo in the fifth. "I hit him so hard," says an impressed Cooper, "I didn't think he'd get up."

Feb. 27, 1993 W 10 Bonecrusher Smith, Atlantic City: Boxing for the first time with trainers Lou Duva and George Benton in his corner, Moorer carefully outscores the 39-year-old Smith by unanimous totals of 99-91, 98-93, and 98-92. "I wasn't going to be careless and try to take him out," says the winner.

Dec. 4, 1993 W 10 Mike Evans, Reno, Nevada: Maybe, just maybe Evander Holyfield and his camp become overconfident after watching number-one contender Moorer sleepwalk through his bout with the reluctant 34-year-old Evans. Moorer wins every round but gives Holyfield no reason to fear him. The crowd boos throughout, and in round five begins a chant of "George" for HBO analyst George Foreman.

April 22, 1994 W 12 Evander Holyfield, Las Vegas: Moorer, 26, becomes the first southpaw heavyweight champion in history by surviving a second-round knockdown and outboxing Holyfield at Caesars Palace. A 2-1 underdog, the challenger controls the bout with his jab and triumphs by majority scores of 116-112, 115-114, and 114-114.

Photo by Tom Casino

British To A Fault?

THE RELAXED REIGN OF LENNOX LEWIS

By Eric Karabell

At 9:15 on what certainly wasn't an ordinary Friday night, Lennox Lewis awoke from a brief nap. He looked as relaxed as a guy out fishing with his dog on a Sunday morning, and, if you didn't know better, you would not have guessed he was two hours from defending the WBC heavyweight title.

But Lewis is just a cavalier kind of guy. He doesn't say much and doesn't show much emotion, not even in the ring. And on this May night in the back dressing room of Atlantic City's Convention Center, as he prepared mentally to face Phil Jackson, Lewis was quite content to let his trainer, Pepe Correa, be his mouthpiece.

"He's ready," Correa said, "we did all the work in camp."

Simple, plain, and candid. That's what you'll get from Lewis and his camp. Lewis knows he has something to prove, but he knows he has time to do it. Just keep winning. The recognition should naturally follow.

It was a little after 10. The HBO telecast had begun and was being shown on a small television monitor on the floor. Loud reggae music covered up the whispers and sounds of yawning. Lewis rose from the table and put on his fighting shorts. He had his socks put on for him, then took a seat on the floor atop an outstretched blanket. While loosening up, he watched the first couple rounds of the Kevin Kelley-Jesse Benavides featherweight brawl in silence.

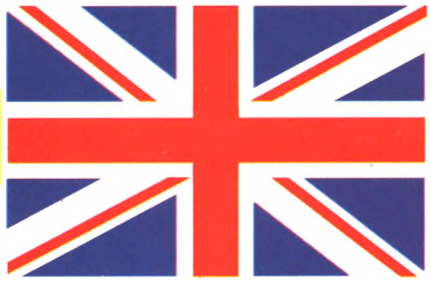
With Kelley about to hit the deck in the second round, Donald Trump stopped by for a brief visit, shaking Lewis' hand. "Hey, guys, unify the title," he said, following up with some attempted humor: "If I could fight like you, I'd be rich as hell." No one even grinned.

Lewis shadowboxed for a few minutes. Still, the only sounds came from the boom-box. Sharp-dressed brothers Frank Maloney, Lewis' manager, and Eugene Maloney watched intently. Correa, who once trained Sugar Ray Leonard, nodded his head in approval. An HBO cameraman poked his way through the curtains to shoot some between-rounds footage of the champ getting his hands wrapped, and other exciting stuff.

Photo by Will Hart/HBO

Above: As Phil Jackson found out, Lewis likes to establish distance with his endless jab. The challenger failed to force Lewis into a phone booth war and suffered the consequences again and again. Below: Lewis occasionally looks awkward, especially when forced to a defensive mode. When allowed to control the pace, as he has been able to in his three title defenses, he can be dominant.

Photo by Jason Ross Lavin



One can't help but get the impression that Lewis is not an exciting guy. He's not flashy, in or out of the ring. Nor does he want to be. His last major accomplishment—maybe his only one as a professional—was beating up Razor Ruddock in October 1992. Sorry, Lennox, but defeating Tony Tucker and Frank Bruno, and, as he would soon find out, Phil Jackson, just hasn't impressed American fight fans.

When Kelley's arm was raised, Correa was informed it would be "16 or 17 minutes" until the long walk out of the soothing, reggae-induced calm of the dressing room and into the circus, where the savage fans were ready for Lewis. All preparations complete, Lewis took a deep breath and a final taste of Evian. Correa put his hands on his fighter's shoulders, looked deep in his eyes, and said peacefully, "You're ready."

When Lewis fights in the States, he gets a mixed welcome. Bad and worse. There were chants of "USA, USA" from the estimated crowd of 5,000 and they weren't meant for Jackson, a relative, if not total, unknown everywhere outside of Miami. During Lewis' ring walk, he showed the words "Nuff Respect" in big letters across the back of his robe. If he heard the taunts, he didn't react.

In one corner of the Convention Center was the crazed British contingent, who would have cheered "Fainting" Phil Scott on this night. Waiting ringside was the American press, the true ringleaders, expecting Lewis to beat up another patsy, and licking their chops in anticipation of vilifying and abusing him in the next day's papers. Lewis is getting used to these no-win situations.

Waiting for introductions, Lewis stood in his corner, still as relaxed and calm as the ocean just a hundred yards away. Former heavyweight champions Larry Holmes and Evander Holyfield, along with Michael Moorer, whose reign was closing in on a fortnight, were ringside, and the crowd gave them each, at worst, a smattering of applause. Then there was the laid-back Lewis, who received enthusiastic support only from the British faithful. At most, they received a nod in return.

(Continued on page 73)

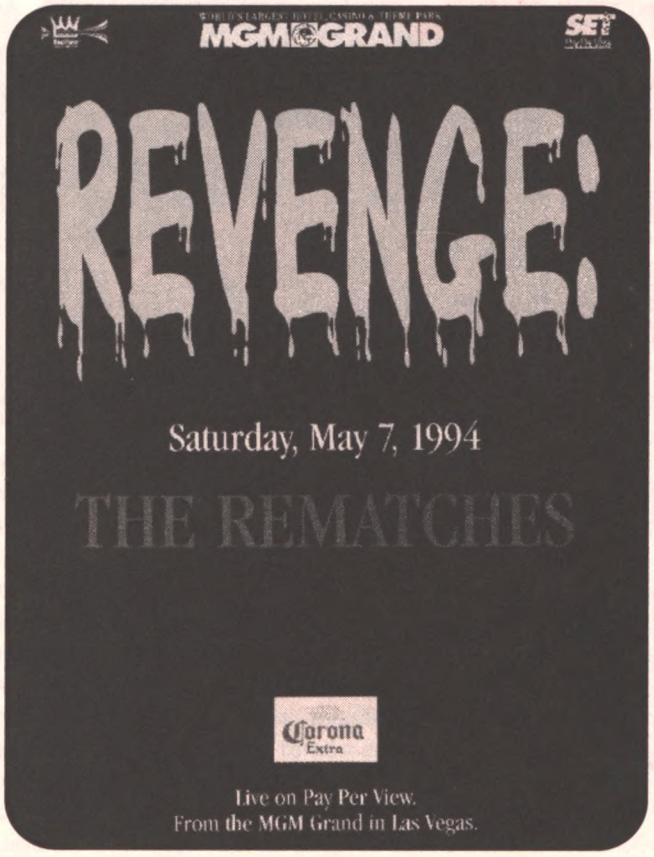
Above: Jackson was floored three times. Still, his effort was far superior to his disappointing kayo loss to Razor Ruddock in June 1992. Below: New Jersey commissioner Larry Hazzard and referee Arthur Mercante acknowledge Lewis' eighth-round kayo victory. Next up: mandatory challenger Oliver McCall.

SPECIAL SECTION

THE GREATEST FIGHT CARDS OF ALL-TIME

n May 7, Don King made history by promoting a supercard at the MGM Grand in Vegas that featured *five* world fights. The card, billed as venge: The Rematches," featured return bouts, Julio Cesar Chavez-die Randall, Jesse James Leija-ah Nelson, Terry Norris-Simon n, and Gerald McClellan-Julian n, as well as WBC strawweight pion Ricardo Lopez' mandatory se against Kermin Guardia. had been fight shows with four title fights, but never five.

g's show came 15 months after rand Slam" supercard in Mexico headlined by Chavez-Greg n, that drew a record crowd of than 130,000. While King estab- himself as a legendary promoter ago, the record-setting super- in Mexico City and Las Vegas him to another level. stingly, the Las Vegas show only 12,010 fans and failed to out the MGM Grand Garden.



Nonetheless, from a hard-core fan's perspective, it was the card of the year.

King can't take credit for the concept of grouping world title fights. The first such show took place over the course of three days at the Olympic Club in New Orleans in 1892. On September 5, lightweight champion Jack McAuliffe retained the lightweight title by stopping Billy Myer in the 15th round. On the 6th, featherweight titlist George Dixon kept the crown by kayoing Jack Skelly in the eighth round. And on the 7th, James J. Corbett captured the heavyweight title, halting John L. Sullivan in round 21. Even then, promoters knew to save the best for last.

Following our ringside coverage of "Revenge: The Rematches," we've featured a look at five of the greatest fight cards of all-time. (Actually, four cards and one that never happened.) Our criteria was simple: The more championship fights, the better.

Let's hope there are plenty more cards just like them.

THE GREATEST FIGHT CARDS OF ALL-TIME

"Revenge: The Rematches"

JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ TECHNICAL WIN 8 FRANKIE RANDALL

(Regains WBC Super Lightweight Title)

By Bruce Williams

More and more of late, people are coming not to praise Cesar, but to bury him.

With three seconds remaining in the eighth round, Julio Cesar Chavez, 140, Culiacan, Mexico, regained the WBC super lightweight title by technical decision over Frankie Randall, 140, Morristown, Tennessee. But while he won the battle, he again lost the war for the hearts of American boxing fans.

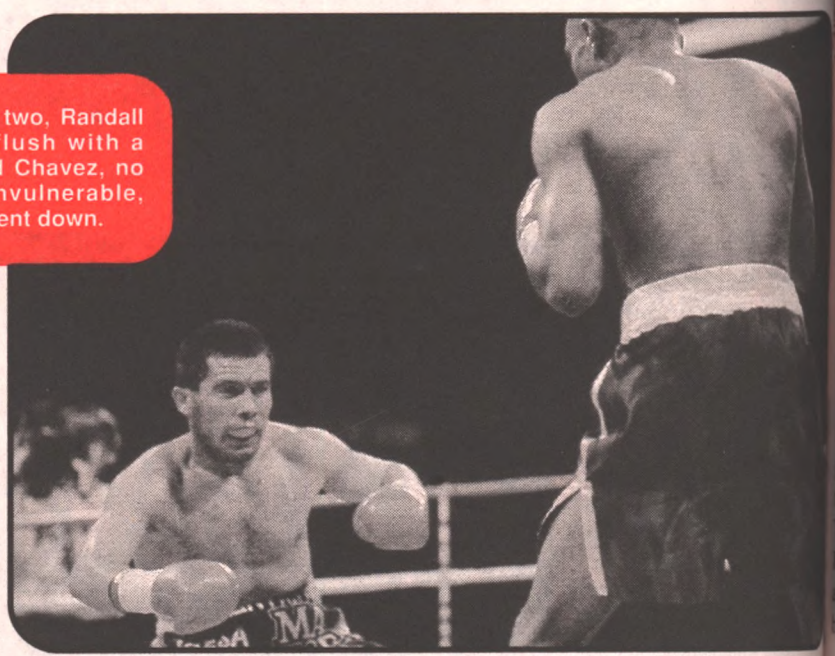
Recently, controvery has dogged Chavez like a curse. Even Muhammad Ali didn't have to put up with this much. Marvelous Marvin Hagler wasn't lambasted for not massacring every foe. Sugar Ray Leonard ... Mike Tyson ... Most greats were not treated with the disrespect and negativity Chavez has faced almost every time he's left the ring over the past four years, or since his last-second defeat of Meldrick Taylor.

Chavez-Randall II was going to be either revenge or validation of Randall's narrow win in January, the first loss of "J.C. Superstar's" 91-fight career. Instead, the rematch only set the stage for Chavez-Randall III, something Don King would like to schedule for September at the MGM Grand Garden, but which may not happen until December.

The rematch offered hints of a classic, as the warriors traded give-and-take through the early rounds. Randall, 49-3-1 (39), buckled Chavez' knees with a looping right early in the second round, and only the Mexican's championship heart kept him off the canvas as he wobbled backward.

Chavez, 90-1-1 (77), concentrated primarily on bodyshots, sometimes straying low. Referee Mills Lane (USA) issued warnings on numerous occasions and seemed on the verge of deducting a point in the seventh after Chavez landed an iffy uppercut to the beltline. The 32-year-old Randall, meanwhile, varied his attack, treating the legend with respect, but not fear. His jab was his main weapon; he played counterpuncher for a while, chased Chavez in the middle rounds, and was luring him in after the sixth. A right to Chavez' head early in the seventh was one of Randall's best shots of the night, and shortly after, back-to-back jabs found Chavez' nose. Less than a minute later, Chavez received his strictest warning for punching low.

It was Randall, however, who was penalized for a low blow in the eighth, and that would be a decisive factor in another controversial ending. Chavez landed combinations early in the round, but Randall answered with an eight-punch flurry.



In round two, Randall landed flush with a right and Chavez, no longer invulnerable, almost went down.

Chavez responded by bullying Randall to the ropes. The defending champion took the action and spun him. The exchanges were getting fiercer and fiercer. Randall went low to hurt Chavez and attack his body. When he straightened, Chavez was directly above him, and their heads met like runaway trains.

It was Chavez who got the worst of the collision; an ugly four-inch gash above his right brow began gushing blood. Lane quickly sent Chavez to ringside physician Flip Homansky.

"It was my recommendation that the fight continue," Homansky explained after the fight

Both fighters landed their share of bombs, with Chavez effective to the body and Randall to the head. After seven-plus rounds, the fight was extremely close.

It was my impression that Chavez didn't want to continue. He shook his head twice to me. That was enough, and the cut was a very bad cut ... If he had wanted to continue, I probably would have let him."

However, at a press conference five days later, Homansky said, "I really gave a lousy interview [after the fight] and did not say what I wanted to say." He added Chavez "did not quit; he was unable to continue."

According to WBC rules, the butt, though ruled unintentional, brought an automatic one-point deduction from Randall. The round was then scored, and the judges' cards were totaled. Tomatsu Tomihara (Japan) scored 76-75 for Randall, but was outvoted by Ray Solis (Mexico) and Dalby Shirley (USA), who favored Chavez by 77-74 and 76-75, respectively.

The crowd loved it, but Randall was incensed. He frantically rushed back to his dressing room with his handlers, dodging a few cups of liquid tossed at him along the way.

"This has been a letdown for me," Randall said after regaining his composure. "But my head's up. I know what I can do. I still love my self. I'm not down. I think everyone saw the fight I saw. I was well on my way to retaining my championship. I still hold my head up for Chavez; he's been a great champion, and he fought well tonight.

"Now I'm going to take me a vacation, a belated honeymoon ... enjoy life a little bit. I feel this fight's not over. It wasn't over the first time, and it's not over now."

For their part, Chavez and his supporters were busy with damage control, as they had been after the Taylor fight, an unpopular draw with Pernell Whitaker, and the first fight vs. Randall, which Chavez initially insisted he hadn't lost.

"When something like this happens, you react instinctively," said Chavez' new trainer, Emanuel Steward. "He was hurting, and this was something he'd never experienced before in his life. [The cut] was something emotional—he just panicked. He had no idea what the score was.

"He told me he was going to wait until the 10th round, then pick it up down the stretch. The cut changed everything."

Chavez echoed Steward, noting, "I don't like winning this way. I congratulate Frankie Randall because he was fighting an exciting fight. I don't feel either of us is very satisfied with the result. There are things that are destined to happen. We'll certainly see another match.

"I had too much liquid before the fight and my stomach was hurting. But I was fighting an excellent fight. I don't understand why some people don't appreciate what I do. They're never satisfied."

Before the bout, Chavez said he would probably undergo surgery on his right ankle after the rematch to repair lingering damage. An operation will probably sideline him until August. Italy's Giovanni Parisi and old rival Taylor are lined up for title shots. But Randall's honeymoon won't last forever, and he'll be eager for a third fight. So will the 31-year-old Chavez. He desperately needs to silence critics and attempt to regain his rapidly tarnishing luster of greatness. ■

Bruce Williams, a frequent contributor to THE RING, is a correspondent based in Killeen, Texas.

Chavez' battered face belied the outcome. The Mexican's technical decision victory was almost as controversial as his 1993 draw with Pernell Whitaker.

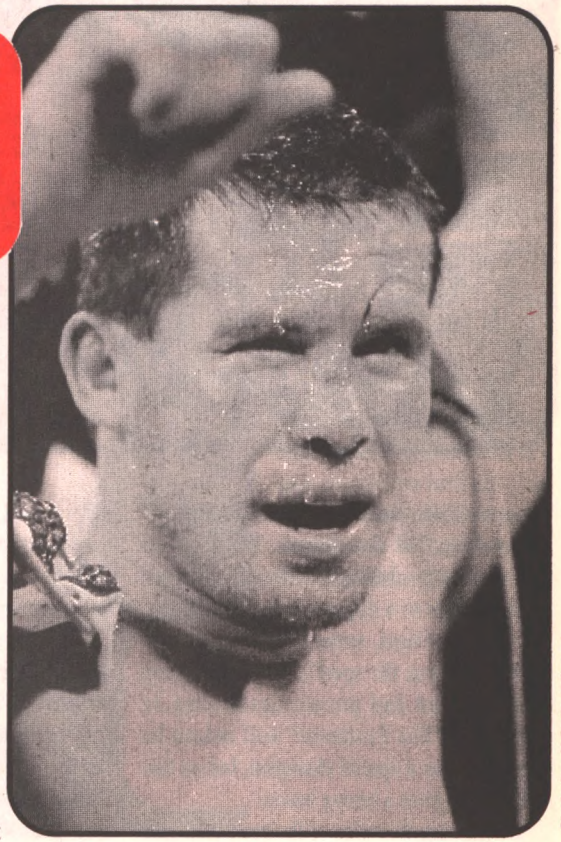


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

THE GREATEST FIGHT CARDS OF ALL-TIME

"Revenge: The Rematches"

JESSE JAMES LEIJA W12 AZUMAH NELSON

(Wins WBC Super Featherweight Title)

By Phil Woolever

Jesse James Leija pounded on Azumah Nelson and earned the WBC super featherweight title the way a young challenger is supposed to dethrone a classy champion—by rising to a new level. At 27, Leija is no kid, but age was nonetheless considered a factor against the 35-year-old Nelson. Leija, 130, San Antonio, Texas, proved he was a worthy challenger in September, when the pair fought to a disputed draw. But Nelson, 129½, Accra, Ghana, seemed a safe bet to keep the belt; he was the sport's longest-reigning champion and had proven devastating in rematches. "The Professor" will indeed be remembered as a special champion, but on this night he was given a boxing lesson.

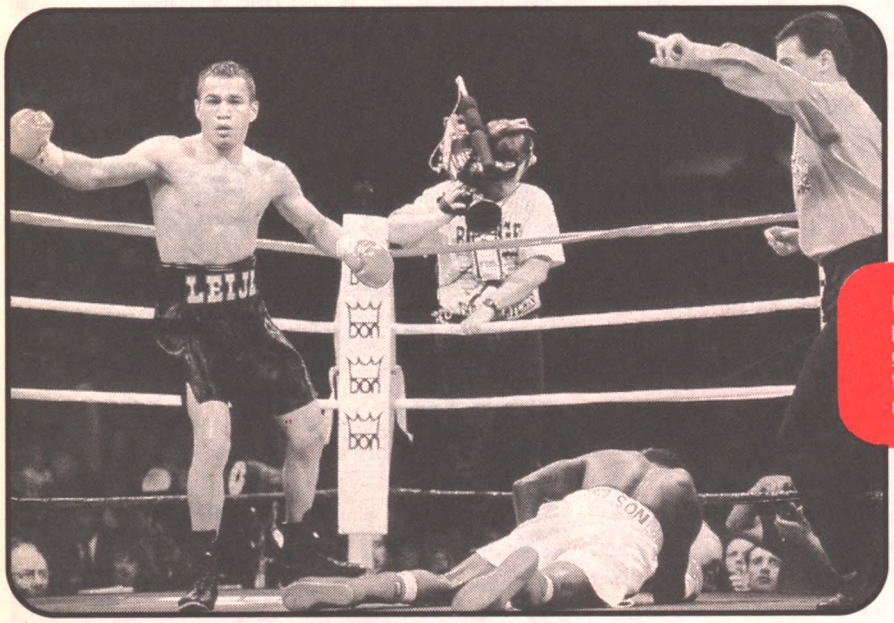


Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Leija's second-round knockdown, produced by a pair of right hands, gave him the lead on points. Famed for his late-rounds rallies, Nelson never came close to catching up.

Considering the status of the bout, each man entered the ring to a ridiculously minimal amount of fanfare. The arena seemed almost vacant, with the crowd filing in during the bout. During Jimmy Lennon Jr.'s introductions, the vocal support—at least what there was of it—was for the challenger. Accustomed to his role, Nelson simply surveyed the stands with piercing eyes. This time, however, the stakes were higher. After prefight shenanigans from Leija's camp, the champion had promised to score a knockout or retire. For his part, Leija warmed up by slapping himself in the face with an extended combination. He wouldn't get hit as often in the fight.

Criticized for a slow start in the first meeting, Nelson, 37-3-2 (26), jumped out quickly, though Leija kept him at the end of his jab. Seeking better angles, Nelson connected with authority, then missed with wild rights. Leija found his range early, and in the second landed a pair of short, blasting rights. The second punch connected smack on the champion's jaw and Nelson dropped straight down, badly hurt. Most fighters wouldn't have stirred until reaching the dressing room, but Nelson got up. Immediately after referee Mitch Halpern's mandatory count, the champion was greeted by right-hand bombs over his low left guard.

In the third, Nelson came out with Vaseline smeared across his troubled face. It added a ghostly gray shine to his ancient appearance. The veteran simply waited too long to charge in counter. He put on more pressure in the fourth but failed to change the fight's tempo. With Nelson continuing to swing for the home run, Leija, 28-0-2 (13), suddenly backed off, showing a deep cut over his left eye. It was Nelson's first real chance. At the sight of blood, he pounced, punches, crouching low and hacking away at using a machete. Leija fought back well and Halpern called time and asked for the ringside doctor's examination. After the bout was allowed to continue, Leija ended the round with a great combination.

The middle rounds were very close, with Nelson twice drawing warnings for punching low. By the sixth, Leija had established momentum, and Nelson looked weary returning to his corner. In the seventh, the anticipated first

ally erupted, and Nelson accelerated in a noble
st stand. Leija matched him, then shifted his
tance so that Nelson was unable to connect. By
e eighth, Leija's rights were more accurate, and
elson's misses grew wider. In the ninth, Leija
ked the veteran, picking off all assaults and
sponding with sharp pops to Nelson's face.
elson's worries grew worse when he lost a
nt for punching low.

When Nelson landed a thudding left in the
h, Leija remained composed. In the 11th the

Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Leija both outboxed and outfought Nelson. Wisely punching in combination, he proved far too fast for the champion. All too often, Nelson's responses were wide, telegraphed haymakers.

mpion searched for a miracle, but he had
been reduced to winging like an amateur.
the final bell he grinned and raised his arms as
had after the first fight, but his eyes suggested
didn't believe he had won.

The decision was unanimous, with Kamel
meff (Egypt) scoring 114-113, Jo Jo Guerra
xico) 117-110, and Jerry Roth (USA) 117-109.
e Ring tallied 116-112 for the new champion.

"If I can be half the champion Azumah Nelson is, I'll be excellent," Leija said at the postfight press conference. "I commend my corner for a beautiful job on the cut, and I have to thank Don King. You usually don't get two chances at a world title in one year.

"I knew he wanted to knock me out, so the game plan was to make him miss. I decided to counter whatever he was throwing and caught him right on the button. The knockdown surprised me. But you don't knock out Azumah Nelson. We had to outbox him."

On the mornings after most of his previous performances, Nelson was juiced up and ready to fight again. Not this time. In a monotone, he said, "Maybe I should retire. Maybe a little of it was making the weight. And I hurt my left hand in the second round and couldn't jab anymore. I couldn't clench my fist and was punching with an open hand, so I didn't have any power.

"I don't know what's going to happen to me. I've got to sit down and think. The main thing is, no matter what, I lost. I don't have any excuses for that." ■

Phil Woolever, a frequent contributor to THE RING, is based in Tucson, Arizona.

Having narrowly missed winning the title from Nelson last year, Leija cherished the moment. "If I can be half the champ Azumah is," he said, "I'll be excellent."

THE GREATEST FIGHT CARDS OF ALL-TIME

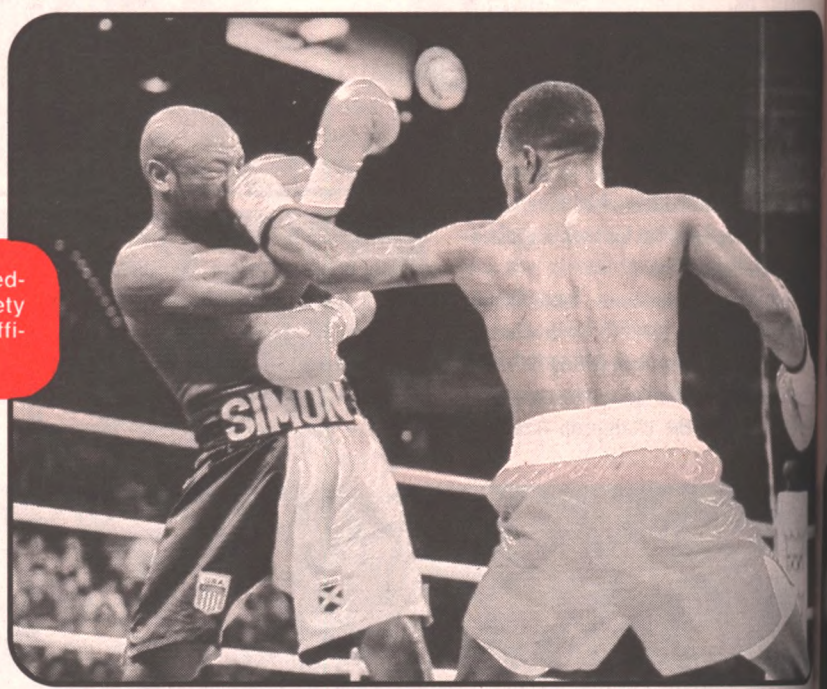
"Revenge: The Rematches"

TERRY NORRIS W 12 SIMON BROWN

(Regains WBC Super Welterweight Title)

By Phil Woolever

It seemed everyone at the MGM sportsbook was wagering on Simon Brown to whip Terry Norris, just as he had last December in Puebla, Mexico. But fate is especially twisted in Las Vegas, so the backing of the bettors was a bad sign. After all, if the bettors were always right, this wouldn't be the year of the upset.



Norris punched as he pleased, repeatedly snapping Brown's head with a variety of blows. The challenger had little difficulty penetrating Brown's high guard.

After a distinguished but largely unappreciated career, Brown's luck changed when he kayoed the heavily favored Norris. He was paid $1.1-million for the rematch, more than anyone on the card, with the exception of Julio Cesar Chavez, who pocketed $1.5-million. (Norris made $700,000.) Brown even looked like the house fighter in a resplendent robe that bore a lion similar to the hotel's symbol. Cutman Chuck Bodak had matching cut-out lions pasted all over his bald head. Brown even gritted his teeth and growled. Too bad for him he offered no bite.

Like his opponent, the 30-year-old Brown, 154, Mount Airy, Maryland, entered the ring in superb condition. But it was Norris, 153, Campo, California, who was most ready at the sound of the opening bell. Most of the night's fans had arrived, but the arena was nonetheless quiet, and it stayed that way. While Norris-Brown inspired more wagering than any other fight on the card, it was rather dull. Brown, 41-3 (30), pursued in vain, and there were few exchanges like the ones that had led to Norris' downfall in December. The challenger aimed to keep it that way, and he did so with purposeful movement and a masterful defense. He also punched enough to dominate on the cards.

Maybe Brown had seen too many replays of his opponent on the floor. The 26-year-old Norris, 38-4 (23), hadn't forgotten Puebla, either, and he used the painful and costly lesson to his advantage. Whenever the fighters were close, Norris fired while Brown waited for a haymaker. It went just like the first meeting was supposed to.

By round two, Norris was quite confident. His speed gave him a noticeable edge, and his uppercuts were a decisive weapon. Norris was extremely smooth as he flashed fast hands, [illegible] ducked away untouched. Seemingly disorient[ed] Brown failed to land his first significant [punch] until the third, but Norris caught him right [away]. In the fourth, Norris pumped in half a [dozen] unanswered lefts and highlighted the flurry [with] a right that spun Brown's head. When Br[own] wound up with his own right, Norris stayed [back].

By the fifth, an amused look began to [appear] on Norris' face. He kept working Brown [to the] ropes, measuring him with short slaps, then [step]ing out of range, almost laughing as Br[own] chased him. For the challenger, the first half [of] the fight was like a stroll through the [Magic Kingdom] theme park.

Left hooks like this made Brown seem badly outclassed. Given Norris' domination, it was difficult to believe Brown had knocked him out in their previous battle.

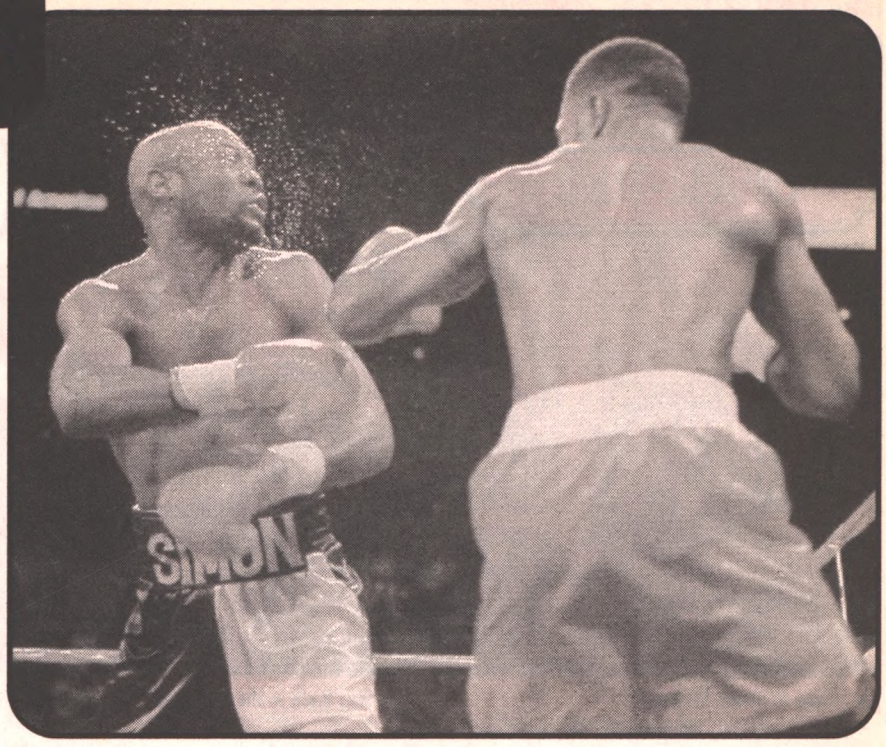


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Brown's only chance was to connect with his big right. At least he went out swinging. In the 10th, he managed to land a solid combination that prompted Norris to jump back on his bicycle. The masses were restless by the 11th, and there was a Mexican chorus of whistles brought on by Norris' defensive posture and Brown's inability to pin him down. When Brown stood in ring center and motioned Norris in, "Terrible Terry" declined the invitation, motioning back the other way."

Norris got in Brown's face as the fight wore down, which united the crowd against him. It was the only visible flaw in his work. At the final bell, Brown was still chasing. He patted Norris, as if to say, "You got it." No one could disagree.

The decision was unanimous, with Chuck Giampa scoring 116-112, Art Lurie 117-112, and Barbara Perez 119-109. All three judges are from the USA. THE RING saw it a shutout at 120-108. Most impressive of all, referee Richard Steele (USA) got through a major fight without a controversy.

"Don King is right; revenge is great," said an unmarked Norris at the postfight press conference. "I knew I had it from round one. I should have done it like this the first time. From now on you can expect to see the boxing Terry Norris, not the slugger.

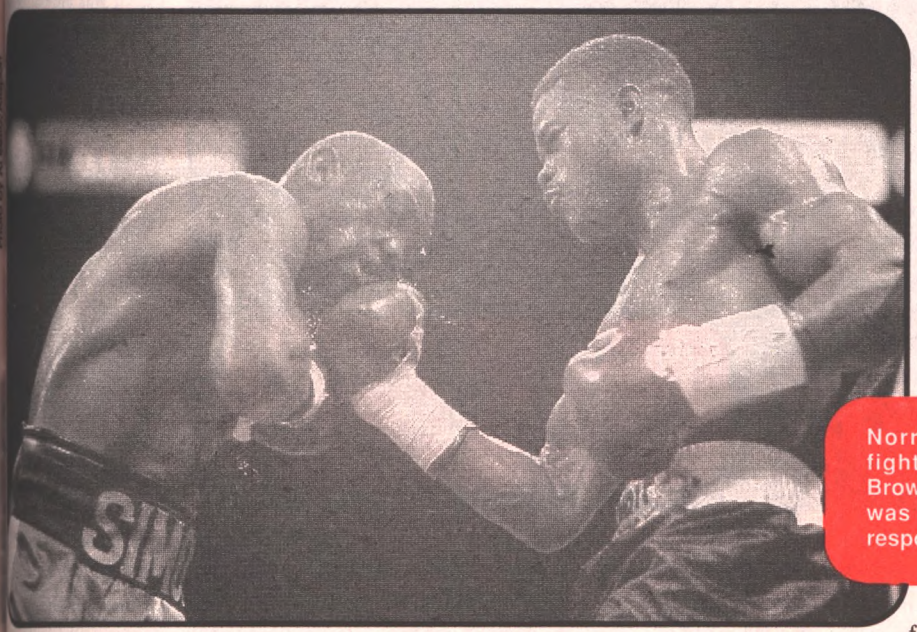
"Simon can't really handle a boxer. I caught him with big shots and wore him out. It was tougher mentally than physically. I had to come back in knowing he could knock me out."

Brown was unbowed and ready to do it again, even though he didn't look like he had been ready this time.

"I thought it was a great fight, but he kept running," he said. "My thing was to catch him, but he wouldn't stand up to me. Now we've got a win apiece. We should do it a third time."

After the show, a panel of reporters voted Norris the outstanding fighter on the card. It appears he already appreciates the title more than he did the first time. He savored being called champ, and he hung out by the casino, where he was swamped for autographs for more than an hour.

"It's up to the people where they want to put me pound-for-pound," he said. "I don't even think about it. I just want to keep improving. I'm fighting for myself and winning for myself now. That's all that counts." ■



Norris attempted to keep the fight in ring center, but when Brown forced him to the ropes, it was only "Terrible Terry" who responded with punches.

Phil Woolever, a frequent contributor to THE RING, is based in Tucson, Arizona.

THE GREATEST FIGHT CARDS OF ALL-TIME

"Revenge: The Rematches

GERALD McCLELLAN KO 1 JULIAN JACKSON

(Retains WBC Middleweight Title)

By Jack Welsh

WBC middleweight champion Gerald McClellan seems intent on convincing boxing purists he's a legitimate one-punch kayo artist. One thing he's already established: He's got an ego to match his power.

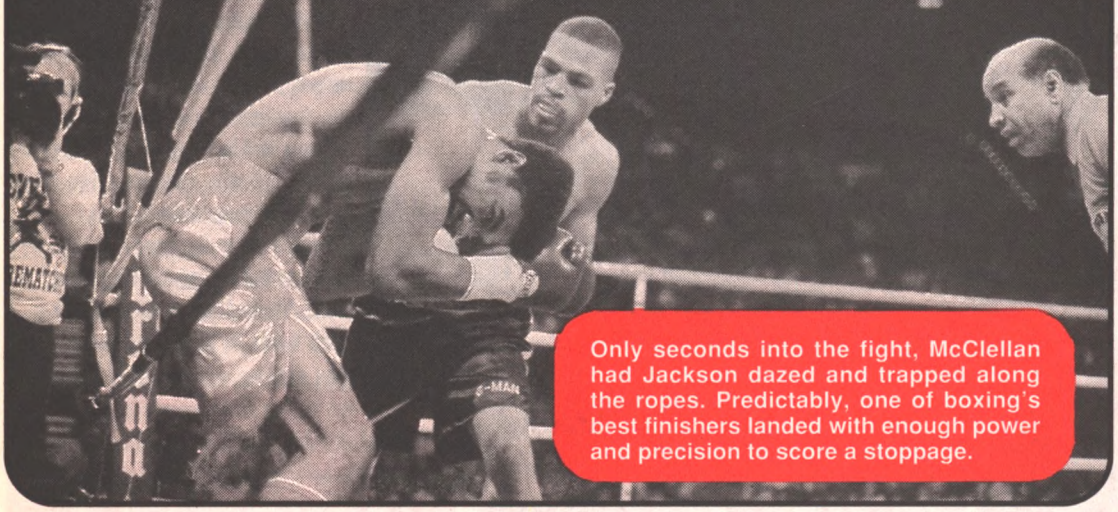
McClellan, 160, Freeport, Illinois, apparently also features a touch of mercy. After his 83-second annihilation of 33-year-old former champion Julian Jackson, 160, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, McClellan indicated he'll likely exit the 160-pound division because of a struggle to make weight. That's the best news for middleweights since James Toney jumped to super middleweight two years ago.

Upon arriving in Las Vegas, McClellan, 26, might have been hyping his third defense when he claimed he had to reduce from 175 pounds. As it turned out, "The G-Man" had to drop a quarter-pound at the weigh-in. Whatever his method of reduction, he wasn't delayed in delivering an explosion that drove Jackson to the canvas—and all the way back to the junior middleweight division.

"The weight is hard for me to keep at 160," Jackson said. "If I had won, I was going to challenge the Terry Norris-Simon Brown winner for the 154-pound title. That's the weight I was two weeks before the fight. Imagine that, McClellan was struggling to keep the weight off, and I was struggling to put weight on."

Seeking to regain the crown he lost to McClellan a year ago less one day, Jackson (45), was thunderstruck when the champ rushed from his corner at the opening bell connected with a left hook and straight r Jackson reeled to the ropes and McClellan instantly on top of him with combinations head and body. Jackson seemed to come apa sections as McClellan, a 7-2 favorite, delive 25 punches before there was a response. Mos the blows missed, but in the volume was overwhe ing. When Jackson fi answered with a right punch was slowed by ropes. He then stumble the other side of the McClellan threw more blows, and Jack dipped toward the can He didn't fall, but was Joe Cortez (USA) w issued a mandatory e count.

Showing a mome ous heart, Jackson w not accept surrender tried to fire back, couldn't find his rh He tried one feeble before McClellan, (29), punished him with an assortment unanswered punches. A thudding hook body—McClellan's best punch—dro Jackson over and a chopping right to the drove him down. He settled on his knees, pitched over, with his head on the canva remained motionless during Cortez' count, bolted up and into the referee's arms at 10:



Only seconds into the fight, McClellan had Jackson dazed and trapped along the ropes. Predictably, one of boxing's best finishers landed with enough power and precision to score a stoppage.

Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

The judges were Cindy Bartin, Dr. James [illegible]-Kin, and Bill Graham, all from the USA. McClellan earned $250,000, and Jackson [illegible],000.

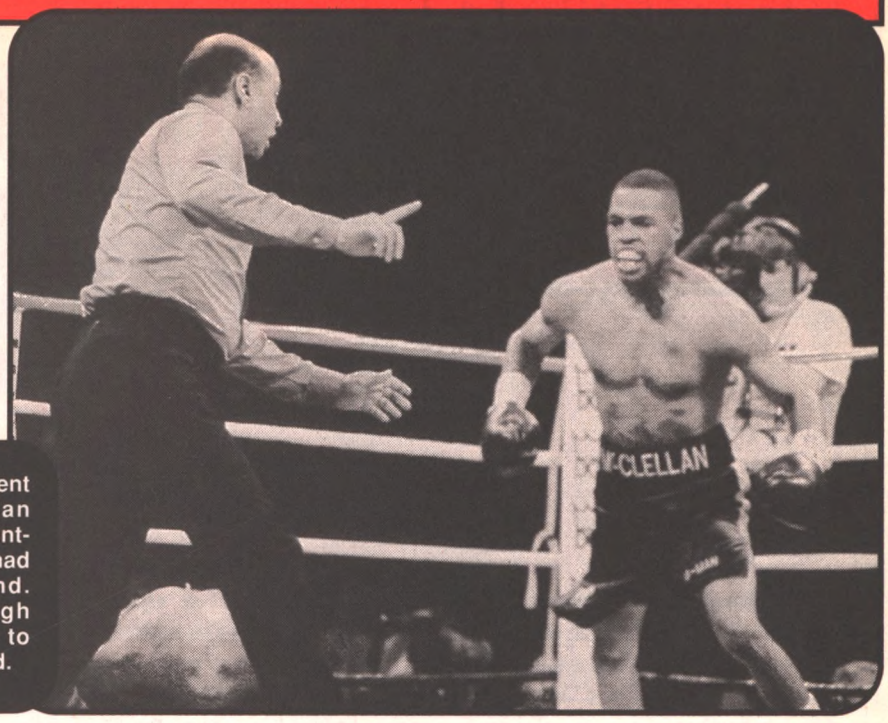
McClellan was irked when Jackson told the media, "No doubt about it, Gerald got me with a surprise punch. However, I felt like I could continue. It was a good punch, but my faculties were still there. I was planning on wearing him down, and he must've figured if he couldn't win early, he couldn't win at all."

"Jackson saying that punch [the first right hand] didn't hurt him just goes to show you how hard I really hit him because it's obvious now he didn't remember," responded the champion. "It was the right that started everything. Whoever I hit with those shots will go down. If that was me getting hit with those shots, I would have gone down to one knee."

Instead, McClellan has spent his time watching his opponents go down; his three defenses, first-round kayos of Jay Bell, Gilbert Baptist, and Jackson, have lasted a total of 210 seconds.

"I've been bragging," acknowledged McClellan, "but I can back it up in the ring. This fight should have been the true main event. The other fighters, Chavez, Randall, Norris, Brown, Nelson, Leija, they don't compare with me. I've been buying houses and cars and dressing good. I'm getting used to being champion, and I'll be damned if anyone's going to take this away."

If he jumps to 168 pounds, of course, McClellan may give it away. Said Don King, "Gerald McClellan has just proved by far he's the best middleweight in the world, but he's going to move up, and that means [IBF super middleweight champion] James Toney and [WBA titlist] Steve Little."



When Jackson went down, McClellan seemed disappointed the carnage had come to an end. "This is a rough sport; you have to be mean," he said.

Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

McClellan contends, "from the middleweights to the light heavyweights, there's nobody who can stay with me." That apparently includes Kronk manager-trainer Emanuel Steward, who no longer works McClellan's corner. (Steward trained Julio Cesar Chavez for his rematch with Frankie Randall.) McClellan is now trained by Willie Brown.

Perhaps the powerpunching champion will soon train himself. He's gaining experience by pursuing a most fitting hobby, raising pit bulls.

"I have 11 back in Freeport, and I bought another in Las Vegas before the fight," he said. "Some people say my style in the ring is pit bull. I don't know, but a pit bull is a real aggressive animal. Hates other animals. I like their mentality. Maybe they remind me of boxing, which is survival of the fittest. This is a rough sport; you have to be mean. Good guys don't make it.

His swift and convincing kayo of Jackson provided ample evidence. ■

Jack Welsh is THE RING's correspondent in Las Vegas.

McClellan is flanked by referee Cortez and promoter King. Was his rematch kayo of Jackson his farewell at middleweight? Making 160 pounds may be a fight he can't keep winning.

THE GREATEST FIGHT CARDS OF ALL-TIME

"Revenge: The Rematches"

RICARDO LOPEZ W 12 KERMIN GUARDIA

(Retains WBC Strawweight Title)

By Bruce Williams

WBC strawweight king Ricardo Lopez, 105, Mexico City, didn't make an overwhelming impression in his Las Vegas debut. In fact, the strawweight from the barrio of Tacubaya had one of his worst outings while overcoming previously unbeaten number-one contender Kermin Guardia, 104, Cartagena, Colombia.

As evidence of that, Lopez displayed a bruised and discolored face, especially around both eyes and on his upper forehead. Guardia's awkward southpaw style took Lopez out of his intended game plan of wearing down his opponent and taking him out late. But the champion nonetheless did enough, especially with right leads, to comfortably win by unanimous decision. Chuck Williams and Carol Castellano scored 117-110, and Dave Moretti 119-109. All three judges are from the USA. THE RING had Lopez in front by 116-111. The referee was Toby Gibson (USA).

This was Lopez' first fight since Decembe when, while defending against Manny Meich he reaggravated an injury to his right hand. T injury affected his performance against Guar though he didn't use it as an excuse for his f ure to score a kayo.

"He was running, and I couldn't catch him make the fight," he said. "I'm disappoint I wasn't able to show people what I c do. These things happen in boxing. a very difficult sport. The most impo tant thing is to win."

Making his U.S. debut, Guar dropped to 21-1 (16). To the chagri the early arrivals at the half-filled MG Grand Garden, he danced and feint from the opening bell. By the secon round, the challenger was already the ing warnings for low blows and leani with his head against the taller Lopez.

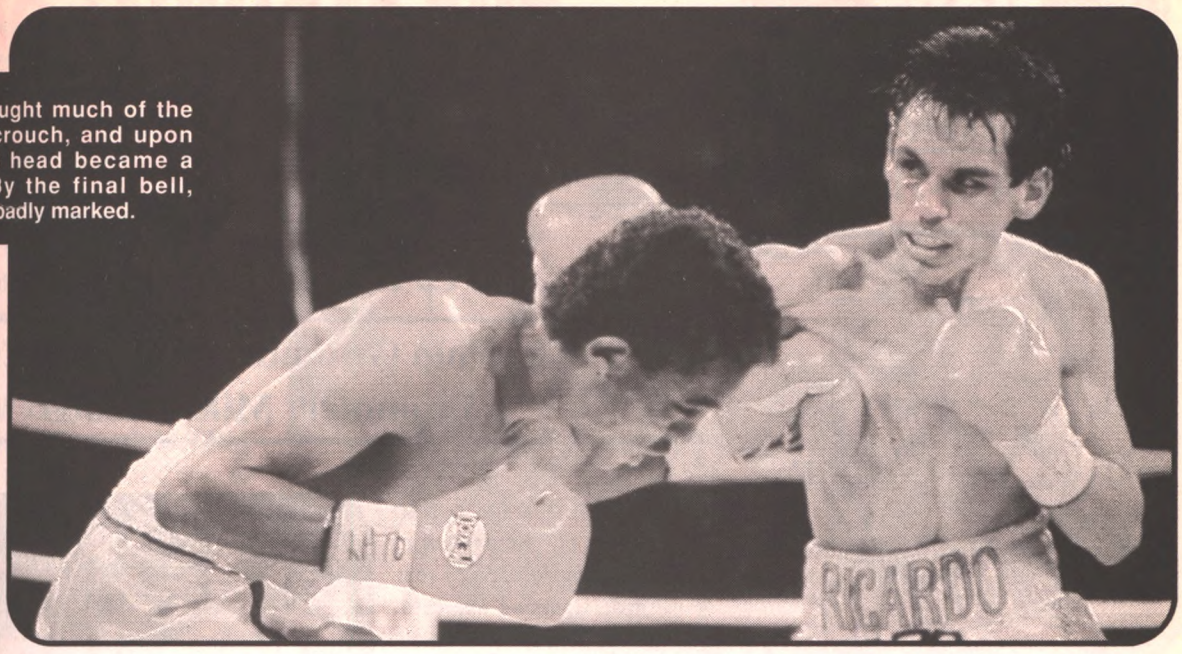
Lopez, meanwhile, was missi more than he landed, as he often pres too hard for an impressive one-pu knockout. His jabs lacked snap, and he di effectively cut off the ring as he stalked the c lenger.

The fifth round was Lopez' best; he sta down and began landing consistently with

When Guardia wasn't frantically circling the ring, Lopez connected with powerpunches like this. A master boxer-puncher, the Mexican champion was frustrated by the challenger's defensive approach.

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

"It did not go at all like I wanted," sighed Lopez after raising his record to 36-0 (26). "It was a hard fight. I hurt my hand on his head. He used his head a lot."



Guardia fought much of the bout in a crouch, and upon rising, his head became a weapon. By the final bell, Lopez was badly marked.

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

...ations to the body and head. His tough ...se frustrated Guardia, and Lopez countered ... The right leads seemed stronger and ...ger. But at the end of the round, Lopez lost ...patience and momentum after ...ng with wild lefts and rights. ...m that point on, Guardia was ...nt to last the distance.

With the exception of the ...h round, the second half of ...bout was little more than ...ez chasing and missing hay- ...ers and Guardia using every ...to survive. Gibson, a strange ...ce since he spoke little ...ish and failed to communi- ...e to the fighters, finally got ...d of Guardia's antics and ...lized him for butting in the ... Guardia went on the offen- ...in the final round, landing a ...lefts and uppercuts. When the ...nger raised his arms at the ...bell, the crowd booed and ...ded.

Afterward, Lopez hinted that ...might retire at the end of the ... The pain in his right hand and ...pressures of a lengthy pro and amateur career ...e weighing heavily. It's more than likely, ...ever, that the frustration of the fight had sur- ...ed.

"Michael Carbajal and Chiquita Gonzalez aren't really that important to me; I don't need them," Lopez said of the 108-pounders who have been mentioned as future foes. "Whatever comes, I will deal with it."

In the late rounds, Lopez, desperate to impress the Las Vegas fight crowd, lunged and missed badly with straight rights and hooks. "I wasn't able to show what I can do," he said.

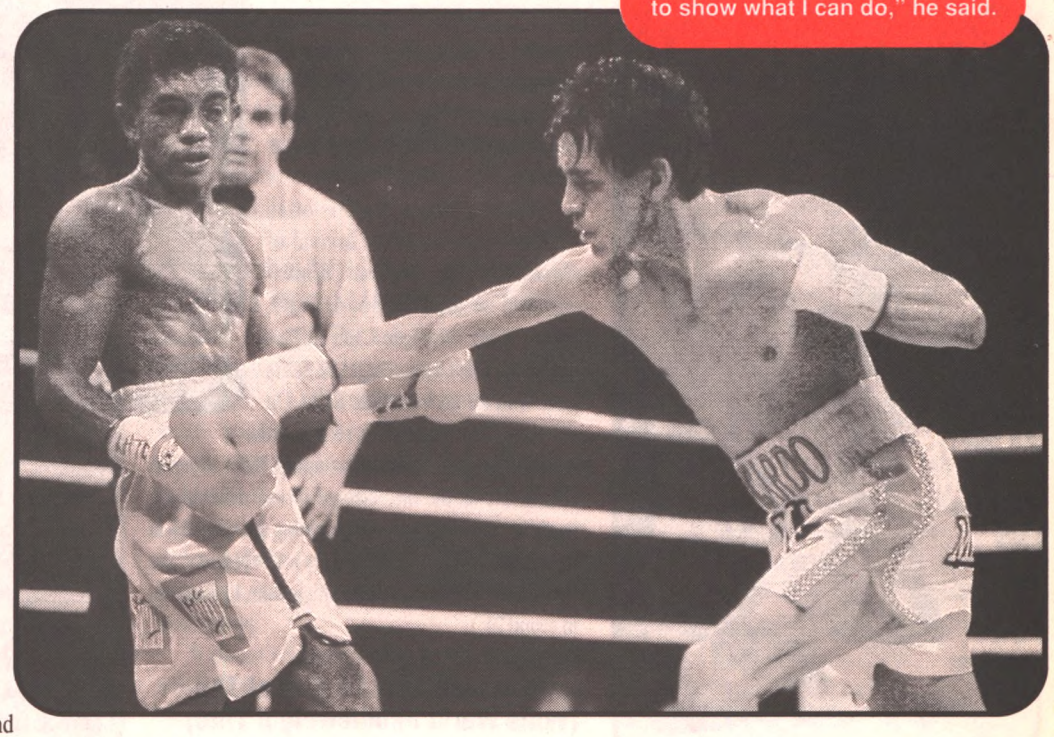


Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Don King has plans for Lopez to fight at the end of July on a supercard in Monterrey, Mexico. Presumably, the champion's enthusiasm should be rekindled by then. ■

Bruce Williams, a frequent contributor to THE RING, *is a correspondent based in Killeen, Texas.*

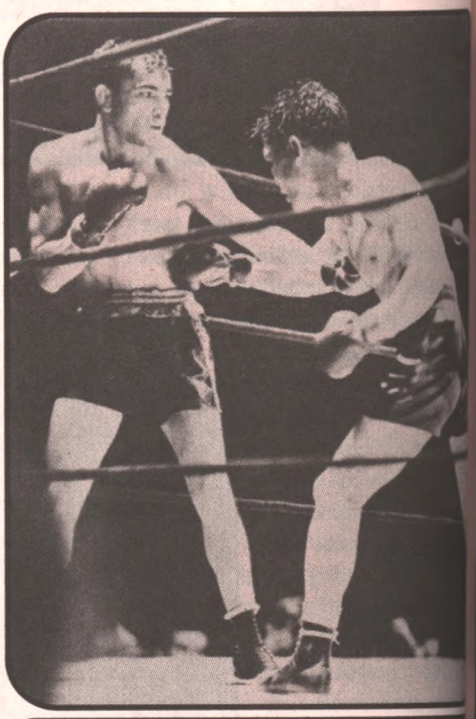
THE GREATEST FIGHT CARDS OF ALL-TIME

THE CARNIVAL OF CHAMPIONS, 1937

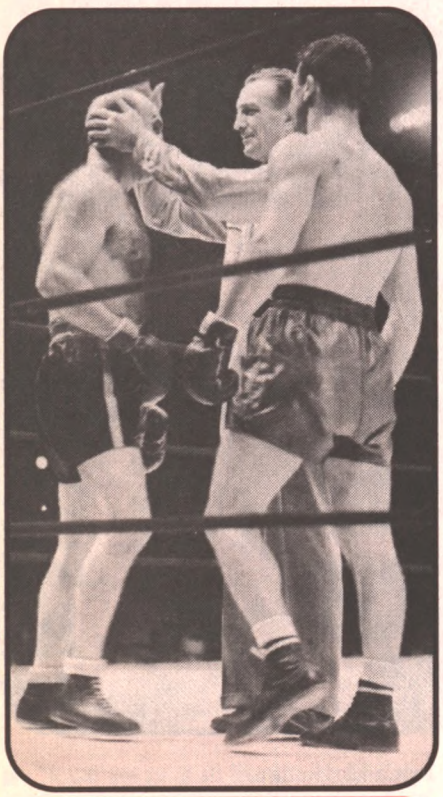
September 23, 1937

The Polo Grounds, New York City
Promoter: Mike Jacobs

Encouraged by his success with the Joe Louis-Tommy Farr heavyweight title fight, promoter extraordinaire Mike Jacobs tells sportswriter Wilbur Wood, "Now I want to do something twice as big as any promoter ever thought of." He decides on running an unprecedented four world title fights on one card. (Remember, in 1937, there were only eight divisions.) The show features four Americans vs. four foreign-born fighters. Jacobs anticipates a sellout of 60,000, but only about 28,000 fans attend. There is a degree of drama; the middleweight and bantamweight titles change hands. In 55 rounds of boxing, however, there are no knockdowns. "I figured I've lost a few dollars," Jacobs says afterward, "but it was worth it."



Ross braces himself for Garcia's attack



Referee Donovan decides Thil will take no more punches

(Though Jacobs' card is often referred to as the first Carnival of Champions, the original Carnival was held on September 5, 6, and 7, 1892, at the Olympic Club in New Orleans. First-row ringside seats were sold for an incredible $100. On the 5th, Jack McAuliffe retained the world lightweight title by stopping Billy Myer in 15 rounds; on the 6th, George Dixon retained the world featherweight title by kayoing Jack Skelly in the eighth; and on the 7th, James J. Corbett won the world heavyweight title by halting John L. Sullivan in round 21.)

Fred Apostoli KO 10 Marcel Thil (Wins World Middleweight Title)

Not all publicity is good publicity. A few days before Jacobs' supercard, the powerful New York State Athletic Commission withdraws its sanction of Apostoli-Thil as a world title fight, opting to recognize Freddie Steele as the holder. THE RING, however, continues to Thil as the world champion.

At 33, France's Thil is a most vul champion. He's won three title fights by di fication and kept the crown once on a Younger and stronger, San Francisco's A senses his opportunity. He scores a knoc in round three, but seems confused by awkward infighting style. The champion most of the middle rounds before losing in the ninth, when a hook opens a dange over his right eye. Blood immediately be

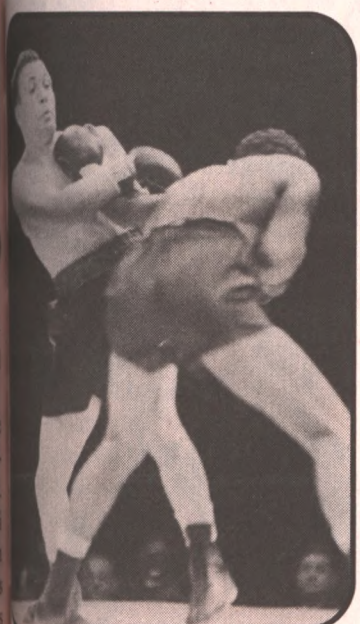
pour from the wound. Instantly energized, Apostoli pours in punches, forcing Thil to meekly cover up. When the challenger reopens the cut in the 10th, referee Arthur Donovan calls a halt at the 44-second mark. (After nine rounds, Thil led on two of the three cards.)

Four months later, Apostoli would clear up the confusion by stopping Steele in the ninth round. There would be no more fights for Thil; in February 1938, he would announce his retirement.

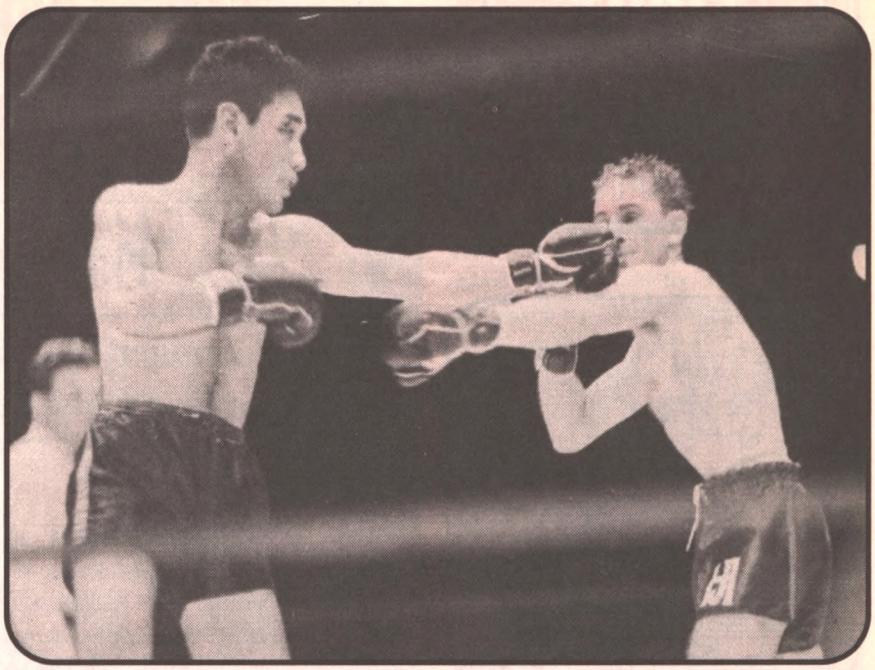
Barney Ross W 15 Ceferino Garcia (Retains World Welterweight Title)

Defending the title for the second time, the 27-year-old Ross is quite familiar with the challenger; in 1935, he defeated Garcia in back-to-back 10-rounders. The storyline is simple: Will Ross' chin and boxing skills overcome Garcia's huge edge in power?

Unbeknownst to those outside his camp, Ross enters the ring with a damaged left hand. He aggravates it in the second round and is forced to rely on his considerable finesse to frustrate his Filipino foe. Garcia occasionally scores with his trademed bolo punch, hurting Ross in the third and fourth. By the 12th, the champion, both his eyes swelled almost shut, is fading. Garcia rages in the 13th and 14th, and only Ross' experience enables him to last the distance.



Against Montanez, Ambers provided few thrills



Escobar and Jeffra kept at an arm's length

Having aged dramatically over the course of 15 demanding rounds, Ross will never again win a title fight. But his masterful early-rounds boxing sufficiently impresses the judges, and he's rewarded with a unanimous decision victory.

Eight months later, Ross would lose the title to Henry Armstrong and retire. Garcia, on the other hand, would jump to middleweight and, in 1939, win the world middleweight title by stopping Apostoli.

Lou Ambers W 15 Pedro Montanez (Retains World Lightweight Title)

With Apostoli-Thil and Ross-Garcia having been crowd-pleasing fights, Jacobs is confident The Carnival of Champions will at least be an artistic success. Next up is the fiery Ambers, by far the most popular fighter on the card. Having captured the title from the legendary Tony Canzoneri in 1936, Ambers is making his second defense. His competition: Puerto Rico's top-rated Montanez, who has won an incredible 61 consecutive bouts.

It doesn't happen often, but sometimes the best matchups make for lousy fights. Such is the case with Ambers-Montanez. The champion chooses to outbox his rugged, hard-punching foe, and their 15 rounds is virtually void of action. In round five, Ambers lands a looping right that bloodies Montanez' mouth. Otherwise, almost nothing happens. Ambers wins by majority decision, but the card loses all momentum.

Ambers would subsequently lose and regain the title in dramatic bouts vs. Henry Armstrong. Montanez would quickly fade from contention; by age 26, he was through.

Harry Jeffra W 15 Sixto Escobar (Wins World Bantamweight Title)

Unfortunately, Jacobs doesn't leave the fans calling for more. The last fight is the worst fight, with Escobar, Puerto Rico's first world champion, making his third defense. It figured to be competitive, at least, with Jeffra having scored a pair of non-title fight victories over Escobar in 1936. But no one wants to sit through a competitive fight that is void of action.

Escobar begins the bout by landing a big right hand in round one. Over the next 14 rounds, however, Jeffra dominates with jabs and footwork, and the champion never even threatens him. Each round is an instant replay of the one before it, and in an all-time stinker, Jeffra takes the crown by unanimous decision.

Five months later, Escobar would regain the title by outpointing Jeffra in San Juan. After losing the crown, Jeffra would jump to featherweight, and in his second try, win the world title by outpointing Joey Archibald. He would fight until 1950.

THE GREATEST FIGHT CARDS OF ALL-TIME

THE CARNIVAL OF CHAMPIONS, 1963

March 21, 1963

Dodger Stadium, Los Angeles
Promoters: Cal Eaton, George Parnassus

Baseball games in Southern California are rained out about once every Halley's comet. But the inaugural boxing show at Dodger Stadium suffers a five-day delay when, on Saturday night, March 16, rain forces a postponement.

With three world title fights on one card, Eaton and Parnassus know they have a legitimate attraction. But fight night is somewhat chilly, and the card draws only 26,142 fans and a gate of $269,000. Perhaps more fans would have turned out had the card included another Mexican attraction; of the six featured fighters, only Battling Torres wears the red, white, and green. (Sugar Ramos fights out of Mexico, but is Cuban-born.) The promoters nonetheless make a small profit. While three new champions are crowned, the show is tarnished by tragedy.

Luis Rodriguez W 15 Emile Griffith (Wins World Welterweight Title)

In the second bout of their four-fight series, defending champion Griffith and Cuba's Rodriguez engage in a fast-paced, albeit uneventful, distance affair.

Making the third defense of his second reign, the 25-year-old Griffith knows he has to make the fight. He moves forward throughout, with Rodriguez content to counterpunch.

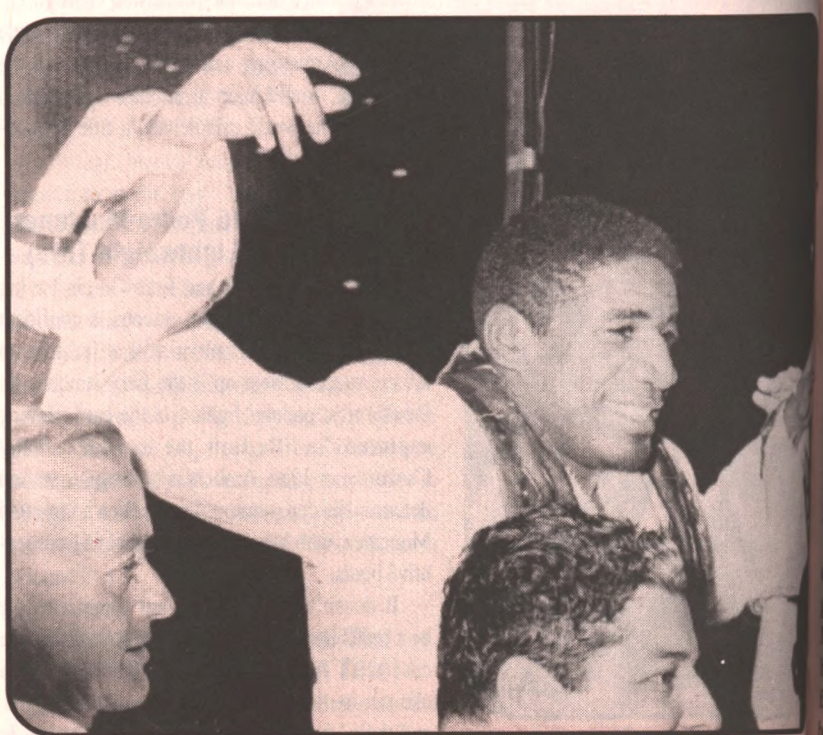
"I had more stamina than Rodriguez," Griffith says afterward. "He was fighting only a few seconds in every round."

When crowd favorite Rodriguez does fight, however, he impresses the judges by firing fast, multipunch combinations to the head and body. He wins the majority of the middle rounds, with Griffith staging a mini-rally in the 11th, 12th, and 13th. There are no knockdowns, and both fighters finish unmarked.

Sure of victory, Griffith's handlers raise him onto their shoulders just before the decision is announced. When Rodriguez is awarded the title by unanimous points scores of 9-5, 8-5, and 8-6, their confidence quickly turns to bitterness.

"I can't understand it," says Griffith, w storms around the ring in protest. "He didn't h me once, and I hurt him several times. Rodrig wouldn't stay in there and fight. He kept ru ning."

Less than three months later, Griffith w win the title for a third time by outpoint Rodriguez in New York. And in 1964, he w win their fourth and final meeting. Griffith, w would remain active until 1977, would add middleweight title in 1966 and establish him



Rodriguez celebrates his close but unanimous decision victory

By the end of the 10th, Moore couldn't defend himself

all-time great. Rodriguez would also fight
in his final try for a world title, he would
a kayo defeat at the hands of middleweight
pion Nino Benvenuti in 1969.

ar Ramos KO 10 Davey Moore
s World Featherweight Title)

Making his sixth defense, the 29-year-old
e is a 5-2 favorite. In the days preceding the
however, a source identified only as a close
d of Moore's is quoted in the *Los Angeles*
e as saying, "His legs are gone. He's slowed
walk. He hasn't really been extended in two
s. He's just sitting there for the first good
g puncher that comes along."

The 21-year-old Ramos, who has lost only
in 42 bouts (by disqualification), is stag-
and almost stopped in the second round.
e's gumshield cracks in the third, and he
from his mouth the rest of the way. By the
it's apparent the champion's energy has
apped. Ramos controls the exchanges, and
e 10th, he drops Moore twice with left
s. At the bell, Moore, apparently helpless, is
draped over the ropes. He is carried to his corner, and his manager, Willie Ketchum, informs referee George Latka of the champion's surrender. Moore does not object.

"It was just not my night; I let him get away," Moore tells reporters in his dressing room. About an hour after the fight, however, he complains of a headache, then lapses into a coma and is rushed to the hospital. An examination reveals gross swelling of the brain. Doctors decide surgery is not an option. Seventy-four hours later he is pronounced dead of brain injury.

Pope John XIII calls boxing "barbaric," and the tragedy, which comes almost exactly one year after the controversial ring death of Benny Paret, brings a new outcry for the abolishment of boxing.

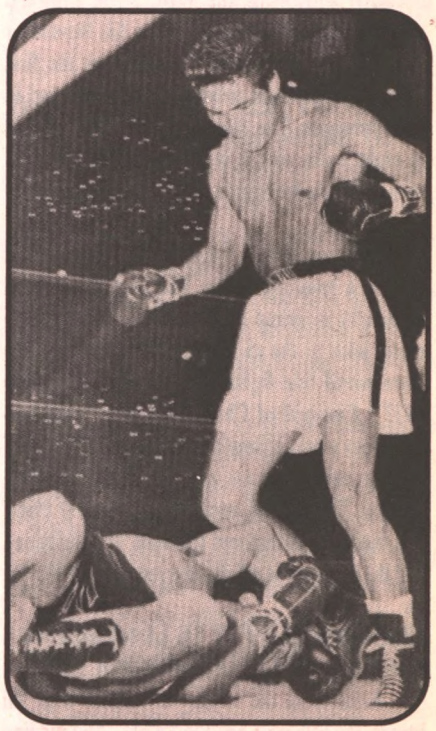
Ramos would fight on, retaining the title three times before losing in 1964 to Vicente Saldivar. In 1966 and '67, he would unsuccessfully challenge world lightweight champion Carlos Ortiz. Incredibly, the Moore bout is the second tragedy of Ramos' career; in 1958, the Cuban, then 16, kayoed Jose Blanco in the eighth round. Blanco died of injuries suffered in the bout.

Roberto Cruz KO 1 Battling Torres (Wins Vacant WBA Junior Welterweight Title)

Following the retirement of world champion Duilio Loi, Cruz and Torres are matched for the vacant WBA title, with the winner to meet former king Eddie Perkins. The pairing does nothing to elevate the 140-pound division; Cruz, 21, is 11-6-1, and Torres, who was beaten by Carlos Ortiz in a 1960 try for the title, has suffered four stoppage losses.

Much to the chagrin of the fans, the bout is over after only 127 seconds. Cruz, a 5-2 underdog, floors Torres with a right. The second knockdown is produced by a pair of left hooks, and the Mexican is counted out.

Cruz' reign would be among the shortest in history; less than three months after crushing Torres, he would lose a 15-round decision to Perkins and never again contend. Torres would spend the mid-'60s winning, losing, and regaining the Mexican welterweight title. Time and again, his chin would fail him, as it had against Cruz.



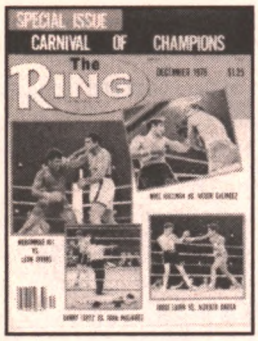
Cruz needed only 127 seconds to outbattle Battling Torres

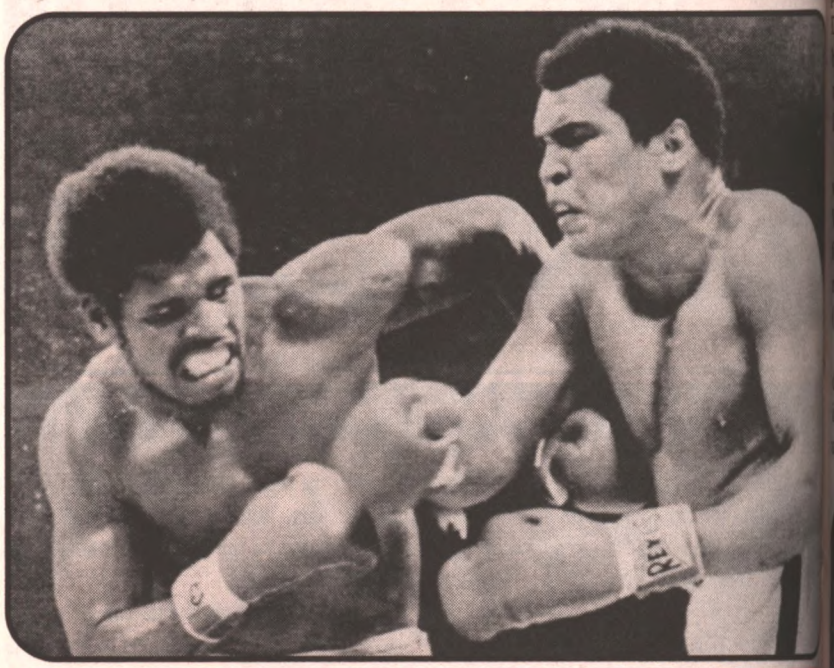
THE GREATEST FIGHT CARDS OF ALL-TIME

THE CARNIVAL OF CHAMPIONS, 1978

September 15, 1978

Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans, Louisiana
Promoters: Top Rank, Louisiana Sports Inc.





Against Spinks, Ali made one great last stand

After Olympic gold medalist and eight-fight pro Leon Spinks shocks heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali on February 15, it isn't necessarily assumed there'll be a rematch; Ken Norton is the number-one contender, and the WBC mandates Spinks defend against him. When Spinks opts for the big money a rematch with Ali will bring, the WBC strips him and names Norton champion based on his November 1977 victory over Jimmy Young. It is the first time a heavyweight titlist has been crowned in such a manner. The title is split for the first time in eight years, and it will remain as such until Mike Tyson becomes unified champion in August 1987.

Promoter Bob Arum knows Ali-Spinks II will be a huge attraction. The bout is televised nationally in prime time by ABC, and the promoter adds to the excitement by including three more world title fights. It is the first time since 1937's Carnival of Champions that a card features four world championship fights.

The card's success exceeds Arum's wildest dreams: The official attendance is 63,350 (there is a blackout throughout the state of Louisiana), and the live gate is an all-time record $4,806,675.

Muhammad Ali W 15 Leon Spinks (Regains WBA Heavyweight Title)

Aside from the payday a rematch with Ali brings, the title isn't good to Spinks. And judging by his lack of preparation and focus for the fight, he isn't good for the title, either.

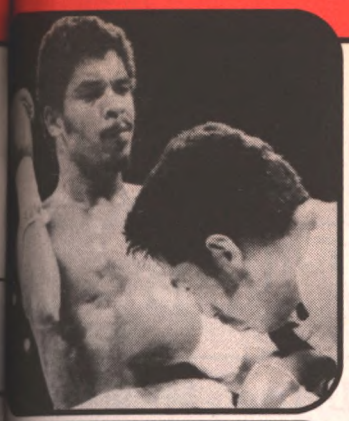
The oddsmakers and bettors sense the 36-year-old Ali will make history by winning the heavyweight title for a third time; despite Spinks' victory only seven months before, "The Greatest" climbs through the ropes a 2-1 favorite. Hitting the near-defenseless Spinks at will and buying time with purposeful movement and timely clinches, Ali gains control early. Spinks' helplessness is heightened by the chaos in his corner; with several panicking handlers simultaneously shouting instructions, strategist George Benton storms to the dressing room between rounds six and seven.

Spinks never threatens, and though Ali is clearly ahead, the challenger leaves no doubt by punishing him in the 15th round. The decision is unanimous (two scores of 10-4-1 and 11-4).

Nine months later, Ali would announce [illegible] retirement, only to return for losses to [illegible] champion Larry Holmes and Trevor Berbick [illegible] 1980 and '81. Spinks would suffer a first-[illegible] kayo in his next bout and decelerate from [illegible] He would lose by kayo in subsequent title [illegible] vs. Holmes and cruiserweight Dwight Qawi [illegible] never regain the energy that made him [illegible] most unlikely heavyweight champion.

Jorge Lujan W 15 Albert Davila (Retains WBA Bantamweight Title)

Three exciting fights out of four ain't bad, [illegible] this is the stinker. Defending the title for the [illegible] time, slick Panamanian counterpuncher Lujan [illegible]



Lujan was too slick for the industrious Davila

...es far too quick and mobile for the determined ...la. The challenger attempts to make the fight ...d his jab, but Lujan maximizes the effective- ... of his four-inch reach advantage and jolts ...a with hooks and crosses.

The bout is void of drama, and Davila, who ...unsuccessful in a February bid to dethrone ...C champion Carlos Zarate, is not rewarded ...his aggressiveness; Lujan exits with a unani- ...us decision victory by scores of 146-143 ...ice) and 146-142.

Lujan would go on to make three more ...enses before being dethroned by Julian Solis ...980. A favorite son of the WBA, he would ...uccessfully challenge for the bantamweight ...in 1981 (vs. Jeff Chandler), the junior feath- ...weight crown in 1982 (vs. Sergio Palma), and ...featherweight championship in 1985 (vs. Eusebio Pedroza). Davila would lose in his third try for the title (vs. Lupe Pintor in 1980), then win the vacant WBC crown in 1983. He would make only one successful defense.

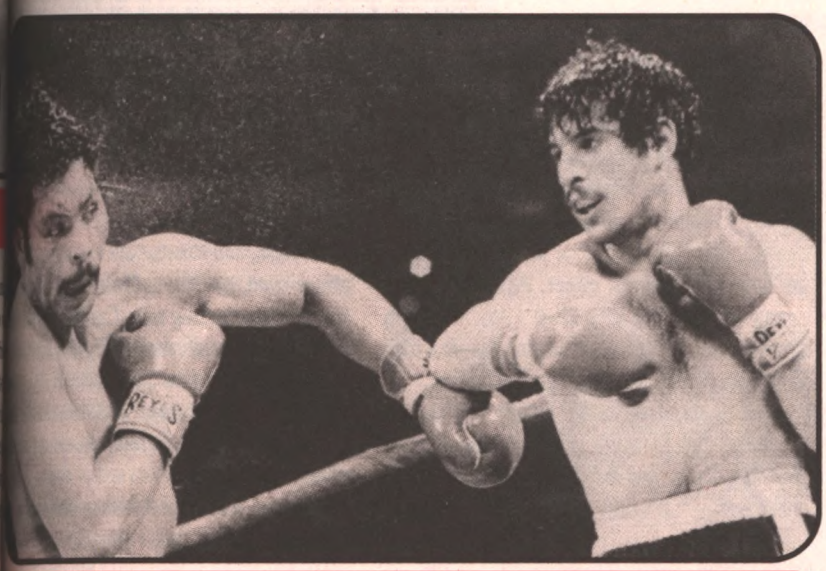
Mike Rossman KO 13 Victor Galindez (Wins WBA Light Heavyweight Title)

Few observers give the 22-year-old Rossman a chance to dethrone Argentine veteran Galindez, who is making his 11th defense and has held the title since 1974. In March, Rossman suffered a stoppage defeat to perennial contender Yaqui Lopez. It seems a strange way to earn a try at the world title.

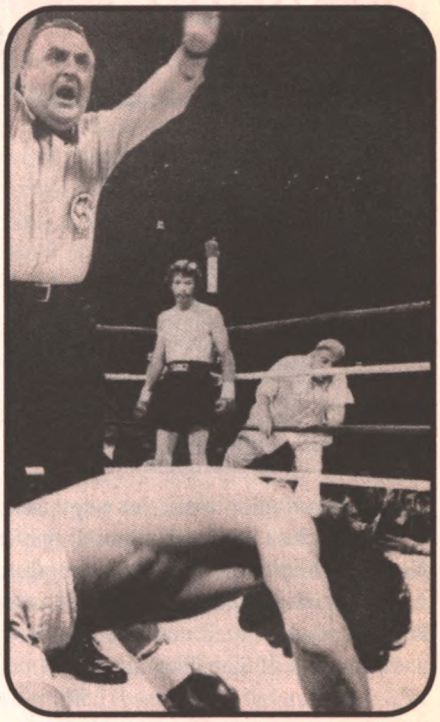
The boxer-puncher fights flawlessly, however, sticking Galindez with his jab and chopping him into a bloody mess during phone booth warfare. Galindez, who struggled to make weight, is cut over the right eye in round two. By the eighth, Rossman is pummeling him with right uppercuts, and in the 10th, the challenger is dominating the inside exchanges. With the flow of blood increasing with every round, referee Carlos Berrocal saves Galindez from further punishment at the 55-second mark of the 13th round.

"Everything went right tonight, just perfect," says the new champion.

A fighter with superstar potential, Rossman would make only one defense before losing a rematch with Galindez. He would never seriously contend again. Galindez would fall to Marvin Johnson in the first defense of his second reign. In October 1980, he would be killed at age 31 in a race car accident in Argentina.



Rossman beat up Galindez, inside and out



Lopez rose from the canvas to kayo Malvarez

Danny Lopez KO 2 Juan Malvarez (Retains WBC Featherweight Title)

In a battle that is typical of "Little Red" Lopez' thrill-a-minute reign, the champion is dropped by a Malvarez left hook in the first round. Unbeaten in his last 27 bouts, the Argentine challenger seeks a shocking finish. But in looking to punish Lopez, he initiates a punch-out with one of the hardest-hitting 126-pound champions in history.

Early in the second, Lopez explodes with a counter right, and then a followup cross that sends the 26-year-old Malvarez sprawling. "When it landed," Lopez says of the kayo punch, "I knew he wasn't getting up." Malvarez barely moves and is counted out at the 45-second mark.

The ever-vulnerable Lopez would make four more successful defenses and keep the title until being outclassed by Salvador Sanchez in 1980. Malvarez would begin another winning streak, reestablish himself as a top-10 contender, and challenge WBA featherweight champion Eusebio Pedroza in 1980. He would be stopped in nine rounds.

THE GREATEST FIGHT CARDS OF ALL-TIME

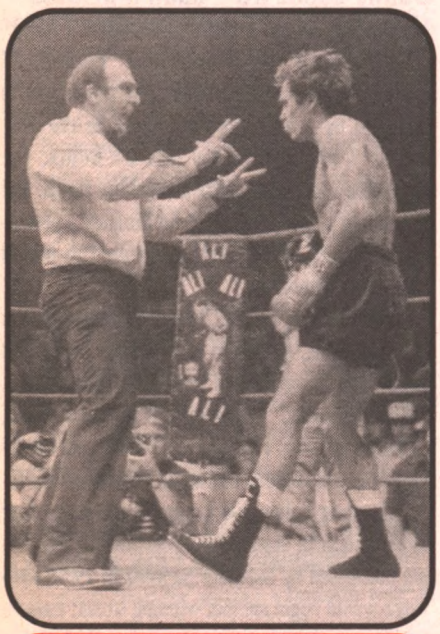
"WORLD WAR II"

August 2, 1980

Joe Louis Arena, Detroit, Michigan

Promoter: Muhammad Ali Professional Sports

Muhammad Ali, of course, has only a minor connection with mysterious promoter Harold Smith and MAPS. But Ali is among those in attendance for the free-spending Smith's most impressive card to date. Smith hopes for a sellout and a live gate of $2-million. As it turns out, he'll settle for a half-filled house (11,500) and a gate of about $880,000. Tickets are scaled from $500 to $25, and for most of those in a city with an unemployment rate of 15 percent, there are other priorities.



After tasting Hearns' power, Cuevas was drowsy and dizzy

Those who make their way to Joe Louis Arena are anticipating a celebration. Thomas Hearns has become a symbol of hope in a struggling city, and a title-winning victory for "The Hit Man" will serve as a huge boost for civic pride.

"I felt obligated to the people who supported Tommy throughout his career to put his title fight in Detroit," says Hearns' trainer and manager, Emanuel Steward.

Against Oh, Kenty capitalized on his physical advantages

Thomas Hearns KO 2 Pipino Cuevas (Wins WBA Welterweight Title)

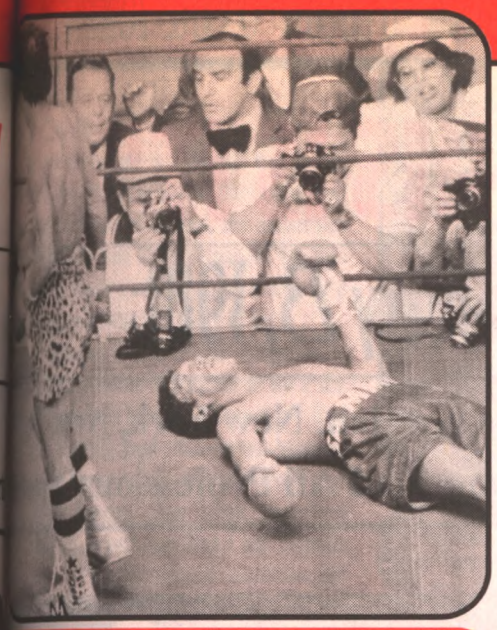
No one is quite sure what to make of this sensational showdown. While the 21-year-old Hearns has never faced anyone like the destructive and long-reigning Cuevas, Cuevas has never met anyone quite like Hearns, either. As a result, Las Vegas makes Hearns, 28-0 (26), a slight favorite—call it home-court advantage—in a bout oddsmakers are certain won't go the distance.

Hearns' reach advantage is only five inches, but when he and Cuevas receive referee Stanley Christodoulou's final instructions, the 6'2" challenger seems two or three weight classes bigger than his 5'8" Mexican opponent. However, it will never be determined whether he hits harder; in less than six minutes of fighting, Cuevas fails to land a significant punch.

Encountering a mile-long jab and a nuclear right hand, Cuevas begins to retreat before a minute has elapsed. Incredibly accurate, Hearns punishes him with nearly every blow. In the second, Hearns connects full-force with a right to the chin. The steel-jawed Cuevas, his hands dropping, spins in ring-center. A second right also lands flush, and Cuevas falls face-first. Dizzy and glassy-eyed, he rises at Christodoulou's count of six. But into the ring races Cuevas' handler, Lou Sanchez, who embraces his fighter, and the bout is signaled over at the 2:39 mark.

"He was hurt badly," says Sanchez. "A fighter's life is worth more to me than 10 world champions."

Hearns would make three defenses before being stopped by Sugar Ray Leonard in a 1989 unification bout. He would rebound from that defeat to win world titles at three more weights. Now 35, he remains active. Cuevas would never recover from the beating. He would fight through most of the '80s, but for all intent and purpose he was washed up at age 22.



One punch from Uehera and Serrano was staring at the ceiling

...ner Kenty KO 9 Young Ho Oh ...tains WBA Lightweight Title)

...Hearns is Detroit's favorite fighter, but ...y, an import from Ohio, is the Kronk gym's ...r world champion. In March, Kenty took the ...BA 135-pound title by surprising Ernesto ...ena. This is his first defense.

...Unlike the Hearns-Cuevas and Uehara-...rano bouts, there's no title change here. ...pite struggling to make 135 pounds, Kenty ...es physically and technically superior, and ...h Korea's 5'5" Oh has little to offer but his ...rage. The 55-fight veteran soaks up punches ...very round, often while pinned to the ropes, ...d answers only occasionally with wild rights. ...e of his overhand punches finds Kenty in the ...enth, and the champion wobbles. Suddenly ...verable, Kenty circles the ring. But there is a ...inal followup attack, and Oh never threatens ...gain.

...In the ninth, a fatigued Oh rests against the ...es and Kenty wails to the body. Referee ...esto Magana wisely steps in at the 2:50 mark.

...Kenty would defend twice more in 1980, then ...e the crown to Sean O'Grady in 1981. Burnt ...t, he would fight until 1984, but never again ...end. Oh, a longtime Orient & Pacific champi-... would lose that title in '81 and fade away.

...sutsune "Flipper" Uehara KO 6 ...amuel Serrano ...Wins WBA Junior Lightweight Title)

How a 130-pound title fight between a Puerto Rican champion and a Japanese challenger lands in Detroit is a question only promoter Smith can answer. That aside, Uehara-Serrano features an ending even more sudden than Hearns-Cuevas.

The fight is a classic anticlimax; it begins shortly after Hearns-Cuevas, and while most of the ringside scribes are still interviewing the new champion. Making his 11th defense, the ever-cautious Serrano wins the first five rounds. Squat and strong, "Flipper" Uehara, 30, presses forward, his power insignificant unless he works inside. Serrano jabs, counters, and frequently clinches. Pitching a shutout, he leads by scores of 50-45 on all three cards.

Nothing happens in the first 2:45 of the sixth to suggest a turnaround. Then, without warning, Uehara explodes with a right that connects flush with the champion's chin. *Boom!* Serrano collapses, and by the time he rolls over and onto his knees, he is counted out. The time of the stoppage: 2:59.

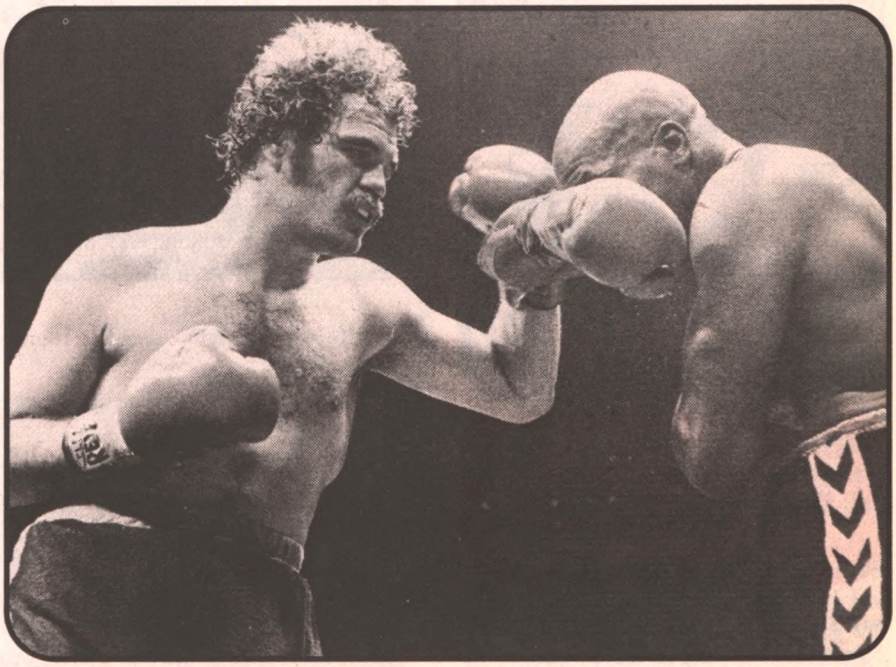
To no one's surprise, Serrano would regain the title by outpointing Uehara in April 1981, then make three defenses before being dethroned by Roger Mayweather. Uehara would retire after losing the Serrano rematch.

Tex Cobb KO 8 Earnie Shavers (Heavyweights)

What better prelim to a trio of lighter-weight world title fights than a heavyweight slugfest? Cowboy Cobb is unbeaten (16-0), and just as likely to drop his opponent with a one-liner as a punch. He seems to relish punishment, and while the 34-year-old Shavers is fading, in the words of Cobb, "he'll hit hard until he's 60." Let the masochism begin.

In a sloppy but entertaining brawl, Cobb and Shavers take turns hammering each other. Shavers lands his biggest bombs, and in the sixth seems close to stopping Cobb. But the cowboy's chin proves as good as advertised, and by the eighth, Shavers is exhausted. The bout is stopped at the 2:19 mark, with Cobb repeatedly bopping Shavers on the top of the head with right hands.

Cobb would lose his next two bouts to Ken Norton and Michael Dokes. His one try at the title would come in 1982, a horribly one-sided points loss to Larry Holmes. Shavers would fight on and, while still dangerous, become a trialhorse for youngsters like James "Quick" Tillis.



The relentless Cobb had Shavers covering up

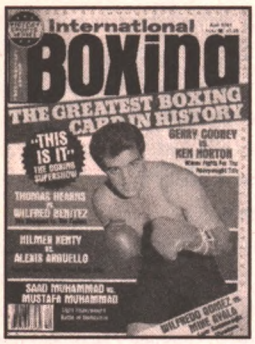
THE GREATEST FIGHT CARDS OF ALL-TIME

And The One That Got Away...

"THIS IS IT"

February 23, 1981

Madison Square Garden, New York, New York
Promoter: Muhammad Ali Professional Sports



"The biggest event in the history of the world," was how Harold Smith (a.k.a. Ross Fields) described "This Is It" to HBO's Seth Abraham. We can think of one or two things we might've rated above it, but suffice to say Smith's supercard could have been the biggest and best boxing show of all-time.

Harold Smith (a.k.a. Ross Fields) was the mysterious promoter of MAPS. Three weeks before "This Is It," he was sued by Wells Fargo for "fraudulently withdrawing" more than $21-million.

Could have been.

The lineup:

A junior welterweight unification battle between Pryor and Mamby would have been an intriguing clash of styles. Unfortunately, the bout never took place.

- WBA welterweight champion Thomas Hearns vs. Wilfred Benitez
- WBA lightweight champion Hilmer Kenty vs. Alexis Arguello
- WBC light heavyweight champion Matthew Saad Muhammad vs. WBA light heavyweight champion Eddie Mustafa Muhammad
- WBC super bantamweight champion Wilfredo Gomez vs. Mike Ayala
- Heavyweight Gerry Cooney vs. Ken Norton

(After Kenty-Arguello fell out, a junior welterweight unification bout between WBC champion Saoul Mamby and WBA champion Aaron Pryor was added to the card.)

There's usually a predictable excuse for cancelled fight card: A financial backer decide to do something else with his money; a lack attraction—and half of the main event—suffer an injury in sparring; disastrous advance ticket sales convince the promoter to limit his losses. There was nothing predictable, however, about the demise of "This Is It" and MAPS. Three weeks before the scheduled show, Wells Fargo Bank filed suit in Los Angeles, seeking to repay the $21,305,000 it alleges was "fraudulently withdrawn" from its Beverly Hills branch

...ds of MAPS.

...ding to the intrigue was the fact that Smith, ... 37-year-old chairman of the board, had ...ared. When he resurfaced, the authorities ...unimpressed with his explanation. He was ...cted of fraud and aiding and abetting ...zzlement, and spent five years in jail.

...pon learning of the Wells Fargo suit, ...on Square Garden attempted to save the ... by securing new backers. They didn't find ... Kenty-Arguello, Saad Muhammad-Mustafa ...mmad, Gomez-Ayala, and Mamby-Pryor ... never happen. Don King snatched ...y-Norton, which headlined his Garden ... May 11, 1981. Hearns and Benitez would ... New Orleans in December 1982.

...t turned out, "This Is It" wasn't it. If only ... Fargo had figured things out about a ...later ...

Matthew Saad Muhammad (left) and Eddie Mustafa Muhammad (right) are seated at an 1982 Atlantic City fight card with Kenty. The Muhammad-Muhammad unification was a prime feature of "This Is It."

Since "This Is It" wasn't, we've decided to tell you what would've happened had the card come off. A fight-by-fight recap:

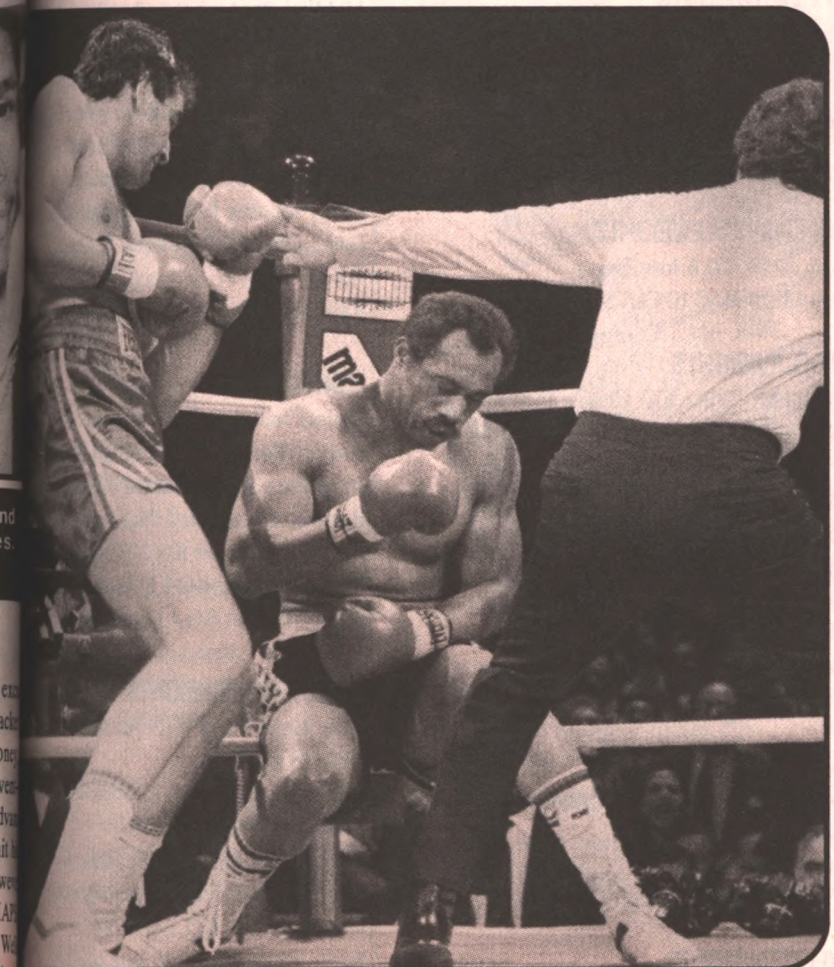
Thomas Hearns W 15 Wilfred Benitez: This one was easy because Hearns and Benitez fought in December '92, with both fighters scoring knockdowns and "The Hit Man" winning on points. No difference at the lighter weight. *No one* outboxed Hearns, not even a Benitez who was still near his prime.

Aaron Pryor W 15 Saoul Mamby: At 140 pounds, Mamby was probably the only fighter Pryor wouldn't have kayoed. The sweet-boxing New Yorker would have countered effectively, but he lacked the power to discourage "The Hawk." In the late rounds, Pryor would get close and stay close, and go on to win a close decision.

Matthew Saad Muhammad W 15 Eddie Mustafa Muhammad: These light heavyweights clashed in 1977, with Eddie Gregory scoring a decision over Matthew Franklin. New names, new result. The first time around, Saad was a boxer. In the rematch, fighting aggressively, he'd outwork Mustafa, survive several crunching right hands, and rally in the late rounds to take a split and highly controversial decision.

Wilfredo Gomez KO 9 Mike Ayala: It's virtually impossible to pick against Gomez at 122 pounds. A sharp counterpuncher, Ayala would have presented a quality challenge. But Gomez was redoubtable. Round by round, he would have weakened the Texan with a beautifully executed body attack. Then would come the payoff punch.

Gerry Cooney KO 1 Ken Norton: *Ouch!* When these heavyweights squared off on May 11, Norton was fortunate to leave the ring with his head still connected to his shoulders. Match Cooney and Kenny 10 times (at this point in time) and you'll get 10 first-round kayos.



...hen Gerry Cooney and Ken Norton finally did meet, the fight lasted 54 ...conds. It was the last bout of Norton's career.

Summary

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Michael Moorer W 12 Evander Holyfield
(Wins WBA & IBF Titles)
Lennox Lewis KO 8 Phil Jackson
(Retains WBC Title)
Larry Donald KO 7 Bert Cooper
Joe Hipp KO 2 Jose Ribalta
Lionel Butler KO 3 Eric Curry
Dave Dixon KO 5 Mike Faulkner
James Obyebola KO 5 Scott Welsh
Ray Anis KO 3 Tyrell Biggs
Bobby Crabtree KO 5 J.B. Williamson
Andrew Golota KO 1 Terry Davis

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Andrew Maynard KO 1 Alonzo Cutchins
Vincent Boulware W 10 Jason Waller

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Egerton Marcus W 12 Earl Butler

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
John Jarvis KO 6 Jose Torres
Dan Mitchell W 10 Carl Sullivan

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Gerald McClellan KO 1 Julian Jackson
(Retains WBC Title)
John David Jackson KO 7 Jeff Johnson
(Non-Title Bout)
Joe Lipsey KO 8 Jerome Hill
Jorge Castro KO 4 Italo Meza
Agostino Cardamone W 12 Gino Lelong
Derrick Rolon KO 5 Fermin Chirino
Raul Marquez KO 9 Patrick Swann
Rodney Toney KO 1 Luis Mejia

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Terry Norris W 12 Simon Brown
(Regains WBC Title)
Julio Cesar Green KO 12 Lonny Beasley
Nick Rupa KO 1 Lennell Strohman

WELTERWEIGHTS
Hector Camacho W 10 Franco Diorio
Gert Bo Jacobsen W Disq. 6 David Santos
Gert Bo Jacobsen KO 3 Terry Ford
Freddie Ladd KO 3 Brian Jones
Derrell Coley KO 1 Stanford Thomas
Jung Oh Park KO 5 Arnold Solis
Bronco McKart KO 8 Brandon Croly
Gary Jacobs KO 8 Alessandro Duran
Keith Holmes KO 2 Sam Gervins
Darryl Cherry KO 1 Kimara Davis
Edwin Murillo W 12 Reiner Gies

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Julio Cesar Chavez Tech. Dec. 8 Frankie Randall
(Regains WBC Title)
Jake Rodriguez W 12 Ray Oliveira
(Retains IBF Title)
Kostya Tszyu KO 7 Angel Hernandez
Zack Padilla KO 6 Harold Miller
Valery Kayumba KO 3 Christian Merle
Meldrick Taylor KO 2 Chad Broussard
Pat Barrett KO 4 Donnie Parker
Roger Mayweather W 10 Miguel Gonzalez
Giovanni Parisi KO 2 Ricky Hess
Chad Broussard KO 1 Pete Ramirez
Hector Lopez KO 5 Rod Sequenan
Corey Johnson KO 7 Eduardo Meza
Juan LaPorte KO 2 Manuel Rodriguez
Jan Bergman W 12 Aaron Kabi
Ralph Jones KO 9 Mike Johnson

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Miguel Julio KO 2 Pedro Saenz
Ramon Marchena W 12 Rafael Gomez
Jorge Paez W 10 Mauricio Aceves
Racheed Lawal KO 4 Paul Burke
Johnny Montantes KO 2 Tito Tovar
Richard Salazar KO 2 Roberto Villareal
Julian Wheeler KO 1 Darren Brown

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Jesse James Leija W 12 Azumah Nelson
(Wins WBC Title)
John-John Molina W 12 Goyo Vargas
(Retains IBF Title)
Reggie Tuur KO 4 Bobby Johnson
Victor Hugo Paz KO 5 Edimilson Alves
Harold Warren KO 5 Tony Duran
Noree Jockygym W 10 Jose Jaiyach
Arturo Gatti KO 1 Darrell Singleton
Carlos Hernandez W 10 Narciso Valenzuela
Jimmy Deoria KO 9 Kelvin Seabrooks

ATHERWEIGHTS

n Kelley W 12 Jesse Benavides
ains WBC Title)
ndro Gonzalez KO 2 Jean Dibateza
r Soto W 12 Louie Espinoza
art Payakarun KO 5 Gerry Villacorta
Gorres KO 1 Jae Sung Lim

NIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

medy McKinney W 12 Welcome Ncita
ains IBF Title)
s Salud W 10 Juan Francisco Soto
gni Bungu KO 6 Jorge Lopez

NTAMWEIGHTS

n Michael Johnson KO 11 Junior Jones
es WBA Title)
ei Yakushiji KO 10 Josefino Suarez
ains WBC Title)
eem Hamed KO 1 John Miceli
fie Ayala KO 3 Lee Cargle
and Gomez KO 5 Jesus Chavez
t Chuwatana W 12 Hasanuddin

NIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

shi Kawashima W 12 Jose Luis Bueno
es WBC Title)
o Borboa KO 4 Jorge Luis Roman
ains IBF Title)
rco Antonio Barrera W 12 Carlos Salazar
cilio Espino KO 7 Jesse Miranda
ny Tapia W 10 Antonio Ruiz
ny Tapia KO 2 Arturo Estrada

WEIGHTS

n Sow Ploenchit W 12 Jesus Rojas
ains WBA Title)
ny Romero KO 2 Brian Lonon
rk Johnson KO 3 Javier Juarez
nki Ioka KO 5 David Franco

NIOR FLYWEIGHTS

ic Griffin KO 4 Orlando Malone
dian Sakkirin W 10 Dominggus Siwalette
ier Varguez KO 7 Armando Diaz

TRAWWEIGHTS

Ricardo Lopez W 12 Kermin Guardia
ains WBC Title)
Pow Phongsawang W 10 Jaime Aliguin

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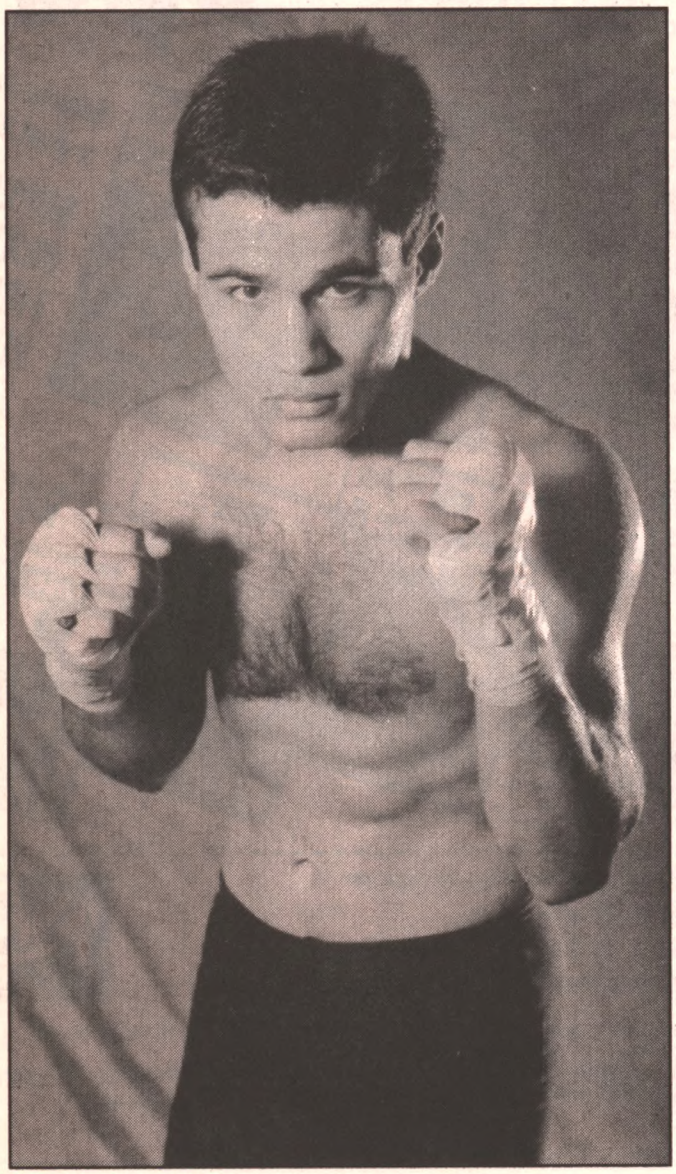
FIGHTER *of the* MONTH



A panel of boxing writers chose Terry Norris as the Fighter of the Night on Don King's spectacular "Revenge: The Rematches" card at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. Sorry, fellas, wrong guy. The show's MVP was Leija, who was masterful in dethroning long-reigning WBC super featherweight champion Azumah Nelson by unanimous decision.

Despite his 35 years, Nelson entered the ring as 8-5 favorite. The bettors' logic: Last September, the 130-pounders fought to a draw in Leija's hometown of San Antonio. Moreover, Nelson's record in rematches reminded historians of Joe Louis. After struggling the first time around vs. Mario Martinez, Marcos Villasana, and Jeff Fenech, "The Professor" took his opponents to school.

Leija knocked down Nelson in round two, survived a cut at the corner of his left eyebrow, repeatedly scored with multipunch combinations, and slipped most of the champion's power shots. After being rewarded by the judges, he said, "If I can be half the champion Azumah is, I'll be a successful boxer."

Few fighters show class both in and out of the ring. Something tells us we're going to enjoy Leija's reign almost as much as he will.

• • • •

Jesse James Leija

nnedy McKinney W 12 Welcome Ncita

South Padre Island, Texas: After rejecting the challenge of number-one nder Ncita at the Convention Center, IBF junior featherweight pion McKinney is aiming for loftier challenges and rewards.

"I should be at least number three pound-for-pound in the world today," Kinney said after making his fifth defense. (He dethroned Ncita in mber 1992.) "To me, James Toney is number one. Number two, I don't w, Pernell Whitaker don't knock guys out, and you've got to knock e out. I'm definitely number three—at least!"

McKinney, 122, Memphis, Tennessee, relied on his jab, superior se, and late-rounds body work. Ncita, 122, South Africa, opened with al movement, and both fighters showed caution until the fifth, when the pion was floored by a looping right to the chin. Upon rising at the t of five, he yelled to referee Rafael Ramos (USA), "I'm all right," and ell sounded before any more punches were thrown.

Ncita's left eye began swelling in the sixth, and it was shut by the nth.

"I did my work, what I wanted to do," said the South African. fortunately, I wasn't able to achieve what I wanted because of the blem with my eye. It started to swell when he caught me with a jab. n when the eye started to close, I knew I was losing the fight. But I'll you right now, I'll be back."

With Ncita, 33-2 (16), on the defensive, McKinney, 27-0-1 (16), ored four of the last five rounds. He emerged victorious by majority sion, with Vaughn LaPrade (USA) scoring 117-110, Barry Yeats (USA) -111, and Torben Hansen (Denmark) 114-114. THE RING scored for Kinney by 118-110.

The bout, which was televised by ABC, was moved by promoter Cedric shner from South Africa to Texas only two weeks before the bout use of political unrest in Ncita's homeland.

McKinney is after Kushner to arrange a unification bout vs. WBC pion Tracy Patterson, who defended one week earlier. "He's been ving away at my ear for a long time to make that fight," said Kushner. e truth is, Tracy Patterson doesn't want to fight Kennedy McKinney. is not wrestling talk, not hype; this is boxing talk. We need to get these in the ring and see who's best. We'll keep working on it."

(4-16-94)

Bruce Williams

e Rodriguez W 12 Ray Oliveira

Ledyard, Connecticut: Defending the IBF junior welterweight title for first time, southpaw Rodriguez, 140, West Islip, New York, pounded his to a unanimous decision over Oliveira, 140, New Bedford, Massetts, at Foxwoods Casino.

The brawling Rodriguez, 25-2-2 (6), scored repeatedly with lefts to the . He wore down the graceful and flashy Oliveira, 21-5 (10), pinning ra Ray" against the ropes and hammering his midsection with a variety deflating punches.

With one minute remaining in the fifth, Rodriguez downed the llenger with an overhand left. From that point on, Oliveira seemed le to hurt the champion or stop his determined assaults.

"I'm surprised I got dropped," said the 25-year-old Oliveira. "It was a d punch. His southpaw style bothered me."

Rodriguez forced Oliveira to fight on his terms. His best rounds were xth, seventh, eighth, and 11th. The seventh typified the second half of ght. Rodriguez, 28, opened with six jabs that measured his opponent.

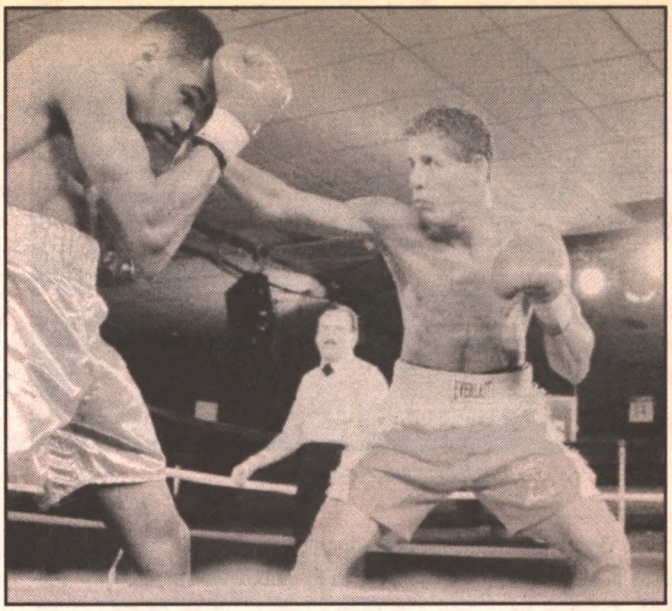


Photo by Gary Thibeault

In the late rounds, Rodriguez rushed in

Thirty seconds in, he battered Oliveira's body. Then, for more than a third of the round, he pinned the challenger against the ropes and flailed away with welting combinations.

Steve Epstein scored 115-112, Nick Cimino 116-111, and Don Nodecker 119-108. All three judges are from the USA. The referee was Steve Smoger (USA).

"I hit hard; if a knockout comes, it comes," said the winner. "The first title defense was no different. They're all tough. I just go inside and go to the body for 12 rounds."

"Jake The Snake" won the title by scoring an upset decision over Charles Murray in February. This bout, featured on ESPN's 14th anniversary show, was promoted by Top Rank.

(4-21-94)

Tom Deedy

Julio Cesar Vasquez W 12 Ricardo Nunez

Tucuman, Argentina: Perhaps the busiest champion in boxing, WBA junior middleweight champion Vasquez, Sante Fe, Argentina, retained the title for the seventh time, scoring a unanimous decision over awkward countryman Nunez, Salta, Argentina, before a crowd of 4,000 at Defensores de Villa Lujan Stadium.

Vasquez, a southpaw, started slowly, then dropped Nunez, 36-6-4 (20), with a left to the body in the third. The challenger rebounded to capture the fifth and sixth, scoring with rights and left uppercuts. But Vasquez, 48-1 (32), proved too strong, scoring knockdown number two with a jab in the ninth, then cementing his victory with a big 11th round.

Nestor Rolando (Argentina) scored 118-114, Fernando Guzman (Chile) 118-113, and Marcial Vargas (Venezuela) 118-112.

Vasquez' next defense will come against Russian-born Ahmat Dottuev.

(4-8-94)

Kevin Kelley W 12 Jesse Benavides

Atlantic City: Is WBC featherweight champion Kelley becoming the Danny Lopez of the '90s? For the second consecutive title fight, Kelley, 126, Rosedale, New York, rose from the canvas to register a unanimous

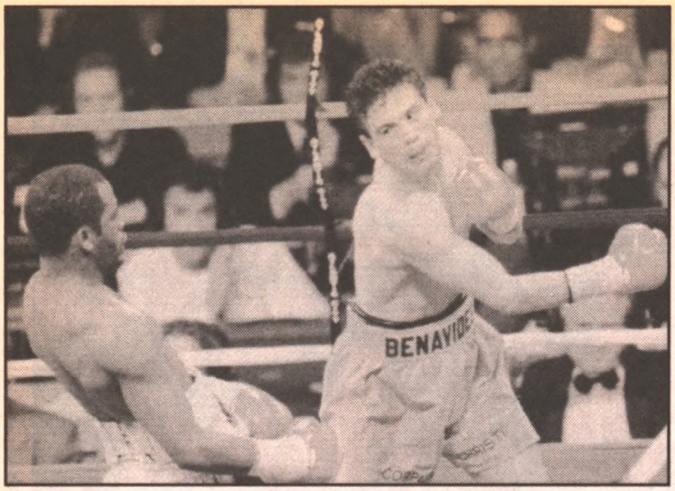


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

For Benavides, Kelley was a reach

decision victory. Defending the crown for the first time since topping Goyo Vargas in December, Kelley rebounded to outbox fellow southpaw and NABF champion Benavides, 126, Corpus Christi, Texas, on the Lennox Lewis-Phil Jackson undercard at Convention Center.

After winning round one, Kelley, boxing with his hands low, was felled in the second by a straight left. "It was a lucky punch," he said. "He caught me in a switch [from an orthodox stance to southpaw]."

Kelley, 38-0 (26), said he wasn't hurt, but upon rising, he seemed wobbly. Nonetheless, he won the remainder of the round, snapping Benavides' head with jabs and following with looping lefts.

An intelligent boxer, the 30-year-old Benavides, 37-4-1 (25), was effective in the third, fourth, and fifth, especially when working in close. But Kelley found his rhythm over the second half of the fight and, firing in combination, nearly swept the remaining rounds.

"I was loading up, trying too hard to knock him out," Kelley said of his early-rounds approach. "[WBC super bantamweight champion] Tracy Patterson didn't take him out, so I wanted to."

A 122-pounder for most of his career, Benavides tired badly down the stretch. Kelley occasionally pinned the challenger against the ropes, scored with rat-a-tat punches to the head and body, and eluded Benavides' counters. His only problems came in the ninth and 12th rounds, when his left thigh cramped and began to lock. "I didn't want to let him know," he said. "But remember, Kevin Kelley can fight under any circumstances."

Kelley was especially successful in the 12th round, and he was rewarded by Malcolm Bulner (Australia), who scored 117-111, Chafic Rashada (USA) 116-111, and Horacio Castilla (Colombia) 116-112. THE RING had Kelley in front by 116-112.

Now one of HBO's pet fighters, the 26-year-old Kelley said he wants to stay busy with non-title fights. His next defense isn't set; possible opponents include Patterson, who wants to move up, WBA featherweight champion Eloy Rojas, and IBF king Tom Johnson.

Promoter: Main Events

(5-6-94)

Steve Farhood

John Michael Johnson KO 11 Junior Jones

Las Vegas: In a year of upsets, "Bam Bam" Johnson, 118, San Antonio, Texas, produced one of the biggest, twice flooring defending WBA bantamweight champion Jones, 118, Brooklyn, New York, en route to a TKO victory at 1:21 of the 11th round on the Moorer-Holyfield undercard at Caesars Palace. It was Jones' second defense.

Never looking like a 6-1 underdog, the 25-year-old Johnson relied booming right hand to offset Jones' superior reach and boxing skills new champion's success was most unexpected; Johnson lost four of his 11 pro bouts, including a four-round decision to Jones in 1989.

Establishing his desired distance, Jones, 32-1 (22), punished aggressive Johnson, 18-4 (14), with jabs and crosses over the first rounds. In the fourth, Johnson connected with a right, and Jones shocki crumbled to the canvas. The challenger added another right while opponent was down. Attempting to answer with powerpunches of his o Jones, 23, rose and fought back with fire. Still, Johnson landed the he blows.

Jones' chin didn't allow him to win

Adapting a stick-and-move style, Jones swept the fifth, sixth, seventh rounds. Johnson kept inching forward, however, waiting for opportunity to again strike with his short right. He scored often enough the ninth and 10th to capture those rounds. Entering the 11th, Jo narrowly remained ahead, with Doug Tucker scoring 96-93, Dave Mo 95-94, and Patricia Jarman 95-95. (All three judges are from the USA.)

Jones began the 11th with a flurry, but Johnson responded with a cou left-right that redeposited the champion on the canvas. Shaken b determined, Jones picked himself up at referee Richard Steele's coun eight. When another right drove Jones into the ropes, Steele (USA) step in.

"I could see Jones was definitely hurt, too weak to continue," Ste explained.

"I was behind on points, so I knew I had to knock him out," s Johnson. "But I was strong enough, and I knew it was only a matter of ti He never picks up his jab, and his hands are always low."

Don't expect a rematch. In the days after the fight, Jones said a stru to make weight had weakened him. He will move up to junior featherwe and seek a shot at WBA champion Wilfredo Vasquez.

Promoter: Main Events

(4-22-94)

Jack Welsh

John-John Molina W 12 Goyo Vargas

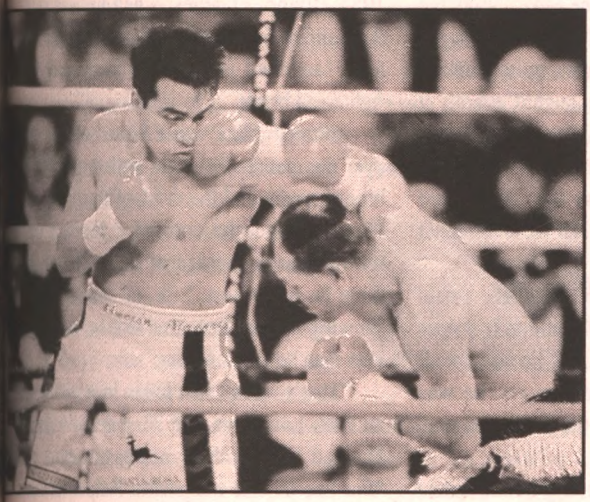
Las Vegas: Making the sixth defense of his second reign as IBF jun lightweight champion, Molina, 129½, Fajardo, Puerto Rico, had too m

speed and punching accuracy for a gutty but grasping Vargas, 130, ...go, Mexico, scoring a unanimous decision on the Moorer-Holyfield ...card at Caesars Palace.

The 27-year-old Molina, who climbed through the ropes a 7-2 favorite, ...ed Vargas' face with varied combinations and both led and countered ...h stunning precision in virtually shutting out the 23-year-old former ...C featherweight champion.

Nelson Vasquez (Puerto Rico) and Bill Graham (USA) scored 118-110, ...Hector Vilchis (Mexico) 117-112. THE RING had Molina ahead by 118-... The referee was Joe Cortez (USA).

"Without debate, Molina is one of the most underrated champions in the ...d today," said the winner's co-manager, Lou Duva. "John-John can do ... box, punch, move, and outhustle you at every turn. Vargas certainly



Molina caught Vargas from every conceivable angle

...a bum, but Molina turned him every way but loose."

...Vargas, 29-5-1 (20), tried to be the aggressor from the start, but Molina, ...(25), working behind an unerring jab and a tricky assortment of head ...shoulder feints, kept the challenger in check and swept the first five ...ds on all three cards.

...Vargas was successful in the sixth, countering with straight rights and ...al solid combinations on the inside. Molina regained control in the ...th, opening a cut over Vargas' left eye and pinning him to the ropes ...a seven-punch volley just before the bell. Darting and dipping behind a ...ubo defense, Vargas won the eighth. However, Molina, outpunching ...Mexican three to one, dominated the last third of the bout.

"I was in complete charge from the first bell to the finish," Molina said ...gh trainer and translator Jose Martinez.

...Martinez acknowledged his fighter struggled to make weight. While ...a repeated his desire to move up to lightweight, his trainer added, "If ...'s good money available, we'll stay in the 130-pound division, ...ecially if [Oscar] De La Hoya has the balls to fight us."

...Promoter: Main Events

...-22-94)

...ck Welsh

...o Borboa KO 4 Jorge Luis Roman

...glewood, California: Making his debut at the Great Western Forum, ...nior bantamweight champion Borboa, 113, Mexico, defended the title ...e fourth time, crushing countryman Roman, 114. Roman, who earned the shot by upsetting Scotty Olson in February, is the brother of the late Gilberto Roman, who was one of the greatest 115-pounders in history.

Borboa, 22-4 (20), issued a systematic beating until referee Dr. James Jen Kin (USA) called a halt at the 2:30 mark of the fourth. Roman, 17-10-2 (8), was cut over both eyes and had just been dropped by a left hook to the body and glancing right to the head.

The challenger was competitive for two rounds. In the third, Borboa took control, moving in and out and proving far too accurate for the slower Roman. In the third and fourth, Borboa landed uppercuts, hooks, and straight punches, almost at will.

"I won as a result of my jab and right hand," said Borboa, who next will likely defend in South Africa. "And those are the punches I worked the cuts with."

The judges were Dave Nelson, Gwen Adair, and Fritz Werner (all USA).

The attendance was 4,328.

(4-25-94)

David Wood

Yasuei Yakushiji KO 10 Josefino Suarez

Nagoya, Japan: WBC bantamweight champion Yakushiji, 117¾, Nagoya, retained the title for the first time, overcoming a fierce body attack to stop Suarez, 116¾, Oaxaca, Mexico, at 2:21 of the 10th round before 4,500 fans at the Inae Sports Center.

The lanky 25-year-old Yakushiji failed to score with his vaunted jab. In the early rounds, he landed several straight rights, while the challenger responded by banging to the body. The Japanese gained control in the sixth and, despite suffering a cut over his left eyebrow, steadily piled up points.

After absorbing a roundhouse right in the 10th, Yakushiji, 21-2-1 (15), pinned Suarez, 18-9-1 (12), to the ropes. A series of left-rights and body shots forced the 31-year-old Mexican to sag to the canvas for the full count.

After nine rounds, Yakushiji was ahead by scores of 89-82, 88-83, and 86-85.

This was Suarez' second try at a world title; in May 1993, he lost on points to then-WBC bantamweight champion Jung Il Byun.

The WBC has ruled that Yakushiji must make his next defense against Byun, whom he dethroned by controversial split decision in December.

(4-16-94)

San Sow Ploenchit W 12 Jesus Rojas

Samut Prakan, Thailand: WBA flyweight champion and local favorite Ploenchit made his first defense, scoring a unanimous decision over Venezeulan former world champion "Kiki" Rojas before 10,000 fans at Klongdarn Anusorn School.

The 21-year-old Ploenchit, 18-0 (5), fighting for the first time since upsetting David Griman in February, attacked from opening to closing bell and kept the challenger on the defensive. The Thai almost scored a stoppage in the 10th, when Rojas turned his back and seemed ready to surrender. Referee Stanley Christodoulou (South Africa) allowed the bout to continue, and to his credit, Rojas, 25-5-2 (12), responded by landing several big rights in the 11th and 12th. His rally came far too late, however, with Harmodio Cedeno (Panama) scoring 118-110, Ken Morita (Japan) 117-111, and Kazunobu Asao (Japan) 118-109.

Said Ismael Salas, the champion's Cuban trainer: "Ploenchit will keep his title for a long time, as he still keeps improving fight by fight."

Promoter: Songchai Ratanasuban

(4-10-94)

Joe Koizumi ■

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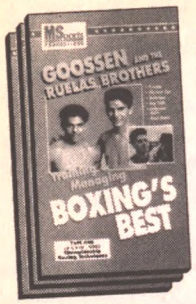

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Holyfield

(Continued from page 38)

figure. Nor was he Jack Johnson, a burning symbol of black pride, or George Foreman, a tower of power with a pleasing personality who could dominate a room as easily as he could dominate a fight.

Certainly this God-fearing man was not Sonny Liston, a glowering presence who men twice his size feared, nor was he Mike Tyson, the street urchin who built himself in Liston's image.

He was just Evander, which, quite frankly, should have been more than enough. Certainly it was more than enough for the 30 men he defeated in 32 professional fights, fights that led him to eight alphabet titles as first the undisputed cruiserweight champion and then the undisputed heavyweight champion.

Along the way, he became the highest-paid boxer in history, grossing $102-million in purses in a 10-year professional career. If he was not all things to boxing's closest observers, he was obviously enough things to the fans who paid millions to watch him fight.

"He accomplished everything he set out to accomplish and more," said his longtime promoter, Dan Duva.

Perhaps no one has ever been more consistent, steadier as a man or a fighter, than Holyfield. Unlike many of today's best athletes, Holyfield stood for something other than the National Anthem. He was, above all else, a decent man, a person whose heart was on display not only in a boxing ring, but outside it, where it counts more. Sure, perhaps, he got cheap at the end, as many great fighters do when the curtain is coming down. Maybe he nickel-and-dimed his long-time cut man, Ace Marotta, and trainer Emanuel Steward, but those were small failings, the kind we all wrestle with.

What was perhaps most significant during his time in possession of the most prized title in sports was that he returned dignity to a game that seemingly had forgotten what the word meant.

"Evander showed you don't have to be a bad guy or a braggart to be the heavyweight champion," Duva said. "You can be a decent, hard-working human being and still succeed in this world. He was a real breath of fresh air, not just for boxing, but for all sports."

Tyson came along just as boxing was foundering. As Holyfield has admitted, Tyson saved the sport in the early-'80s, renewing interest in the heavyweight division, the engine that pulls boxing's train.

But he came to a bad end, as many predicted he would, landing in an Indiana prison just when he and Holyfield had agreed to meet. So Holyfield went on without his greatest challenge, ignoring those who mistakenly insisted he had somehow ducked Tyson despite having twice agreed to fight him. The first time Tyson lost the title, the second time his freedom.

Holyfield ignored his critics just as he had once ignored failing to win a gold medal in the 1984 Olympic Games, when he was unfairly disqualified for knocking out his opponent with a hook launched just as the referee ordered the fighters to break.

Although there was a heated official protest over the matter, Holyfield settled quietly for the bronze medal and the death of the dream he had clung to since he entered a pee-wee boxing tournament at the age of eight. He asked that there be no protest. Life, he said, must go on, showing for the first time that he was a greater man than he was a fighter.

"That's when I first fell in love with the guy," recalled Lou Duva, the 72-year-old trainer who handled Holyfield for nearly his entire career. "For two days it was chaos. People were saying we should all walk out of the Games. But the kid never wavered. He never lost his cool. He never lost his dignity."

In the end, it was Holyfield's dignity, as much as his boxing skill, that would separate him from the rest during what was to become a remarkable career. Instead of moping, as Roy Jones would do for nearly a year after he, too, lost an Olympic gold medal under questionable circumstances in Seoul, Holyfield turned pro and 12 fights later defeated defending cruiserweight champion Dwight Muhammad Qawi in a 15-round struggle that was selected as 1988's Fight of the Year.

On that night, like so many that would follow, Holyfield left all he had in the ring, including an estimated 10 pounds of sweat that nearly ended his career. Hours after his hand had been raised, Holyfield's then-wife Paulette called their family doctor, saying the new champion was suffering from a debilitating headache. When Dr. Ron Stephens, who would be at his side the day he retired, arrived, he knew his patient had given too much of himself.

"He was in severe dehydration," Stephens recalled. "Evander was very lucky that day. We were able to get him to a kidney specialist who

waiting for us at the hospital [in Atlanta]. He unable to urinate. We put a catheter in him there was no urine in his bladder.

"We had to put him on intravenous fluids and 12 liters of fluid into him before he could duce a drop of urine. He was maybe a few s away from striated muscle breakdown, and ose byproducts had clogged up his kidneys, oxing career not only might have been over, ould have wound up on a kidney machine the of his life."

Not once during that fight had Holyfield plained of his condition. Not until all the was out of him and he was home as a newly ed champion did Holyfield even mention omething was bothering him.

"I think what I'm proudest of is that I don't " Holyfield said at the time. "I didn't let it to me after that trouble in the Olympics, and my 12th pro fight I was in there with a very seasoned champion. I went through e tough rounds, but I wouldn't quit and I won my first title."

When he faced Qawi in a rematch, Holyfield both his dehydration problem and the one by Qawi far more easily, stopping him in ounds and becoming the first man to knock ull-like former champion off his feet. He ew the division after unifying the title; it took reconstructive work to convince his body of a simple force of will to make it happen.

Holyfield began working with fitness guru Hallmark, in a year's time packing on more 20 pounds of absurdly rock-hard muscle. they were finished, Holyfield looked like a addled with a strictly enforced ban on body Although his body changed, little else did, after he won the heavyweight title by ing Douglas flat with a textbook counter wild uppercut in the third round.

When he fought he was always fearsome, ing fire when he was hurt as fiercely as any his size could. Yet when the fighting was he was a graceful and gracious man. A pion even his "enemies" admired.

Evander was determined," said Bowe, the an to defeat Holyfield, only to watch him the world title a year later with as well- and courageous a fight as a man could ether. "He always gave it his all. When he ed or hurt, he always fought back. A lot of ometimes give up when they're tired. That Evander Holyfield. If you had him hurt, ught back harder. If you had him hurt, you ouble on your hands. He was a true die- Boxing hasn't see a guy like this since Ali and Joe Louis."

There, at last, someone had put Holyfield in his rightful place in boxing. Not for his skills as a heavyweight champion, skills that would leave him off the list of the division's 25 greatest practitioners. But for what he showed the world. For what his career said about what a man's heart can achieve if it is big enough.

"When he couldn't do anything else, he fought for his title," Foreman said. "He had dogged determination. No one had more heart than Evander Holyfield."

In his greatest moments, Holyfield showed the world how to fight and how to live. Let that be his legacy. ■

Ron Borges is a boxing columnist for the Boston Globe. He was the 1993 winner of the Nat Fleischer Award for excellence in boxing journalism.

Moorer

(Continued from page 39)

southpaw, and I do think that gave him difficulty. But the jab would've worked whether Michael was southpaw or orthodox. Without disrespecting him, I felt Evander was a sucker for a jab. And technically, while you can counter an orthodox fighter's jab with a right hand, it's far more difficult to counter a southpaw's jab with a right because there's no exposure, nowhere to hit. The proper counter against a southpaw's jab is a left hook. Early in the fight Michael was getting hit by that punch, but not late.

When Evander rallied in the seventh, it was important that Michael respond. It was like he had set the table, but he wasn't eating. He was hitting him with jabs, then he was satisfied, so he'd leave him alone. In the eighth, Holyfield lunged and Michael was content to let him miss. It was a bad thing to start at that point in the fight, the beginning of a leak in the dam. He was starting to get a little complacent. When he came back to the corner, I was sitting on his stool. It's not something I had thought about doing, nor is it something I can ever do again; you can only use something like that once. I told him, "You want to trade places with me? You get me water and I'll fight." I think I surprised him a little. I knew it was working because he responded to me; I asked him a question and he answered.

When Evander was pushing Michael back in the ninth, 10th, and 11th, Michael didn't make him pay. For eight weeks we had worked on one thing in camp: When Evander would set to lead with a hook, Michael would beat him to the punch with a jab, then bend a little so Evander's hook would go behind his neck. It got to a point where the people who were watching our workouts knew it was coming. What I tried to explain to Michael was that if you can do more and it's not dangerous, you should do more. But I had no doubt in my mind he thought he was in the middle of the "Thrilla In Manila."

For this particular fight, being that it was Michael's first time and that he was sure he was doing everything he could, I'd say he showed 80 percent of what he was capable of. If it would have been 90, 95 percent, he would've stopped the guy. But I still give him credit for what he did. All I did was my job. He still had to do it in the ring.

The day after the fight, I was in the press tent and I said to someone, "I have a newfound respect for jockeys." Sometimes the horse takes you with him, and sometimes you gotta ride him. You have to know your fighter. Before the start

(Continued on page 73)

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Moorer

(Continued from page 71)

12th, I told Michael to do it for his son. I ...ng everything. Afterward, Davimos said ...t in the 12th, which as it turned out ...e fight, Michael gave me everything he ...d given him. John was right. Michael ...is hands at the final bell because he ...d he had won. Then he stood up on the ...es. You can't fake that. In his mind, he ...en enough out of himself. He had just ...e to define what was enough. There was ...r him to have known.

...r they announced Michael had won, the ...phers wanted me in the pictures with ... But I stayed away because it was his ... I went looking for my children; before ..., they had asked me if they could come ...e ring, assuming Michael won. I finally ...them and brought them in. By then, we ...e only people left in the ring, but at least ...ok it.

I started thinking that, for me, things had come full-circle. I thought back to Tyson at that amateur tournament in Scranton, when I pushed him and got through to him. Now I had done it again with Michael. As for Michael, there'll be more confidence, a respect for the title, a good feeling about what he has. The old-timers say winning the title makes you 30 percent better. I think that's true.

I never told Michael my biggest fear was that if he did everything I had asked him to do and it didn't turn out all right, I would've been a liar. Michael had given me complete freedom. He had given me his trust as he had never done with anyone before. What summed up Michael psychologically better than anything else was the fear of putting himself out there naked and having nothing to fall back on if he failed. The validation of what we had been through was winning. For him and for me. If we hadn't won, I'd still be floating out there after 19 years.

Can I picture going through it again? I have a responsibility to continue because Michael gave me everything he could. And he's the heavyweight champion of the world. As for what kind of champion he'll be, only time will tell.

And only *he* will tell. ■

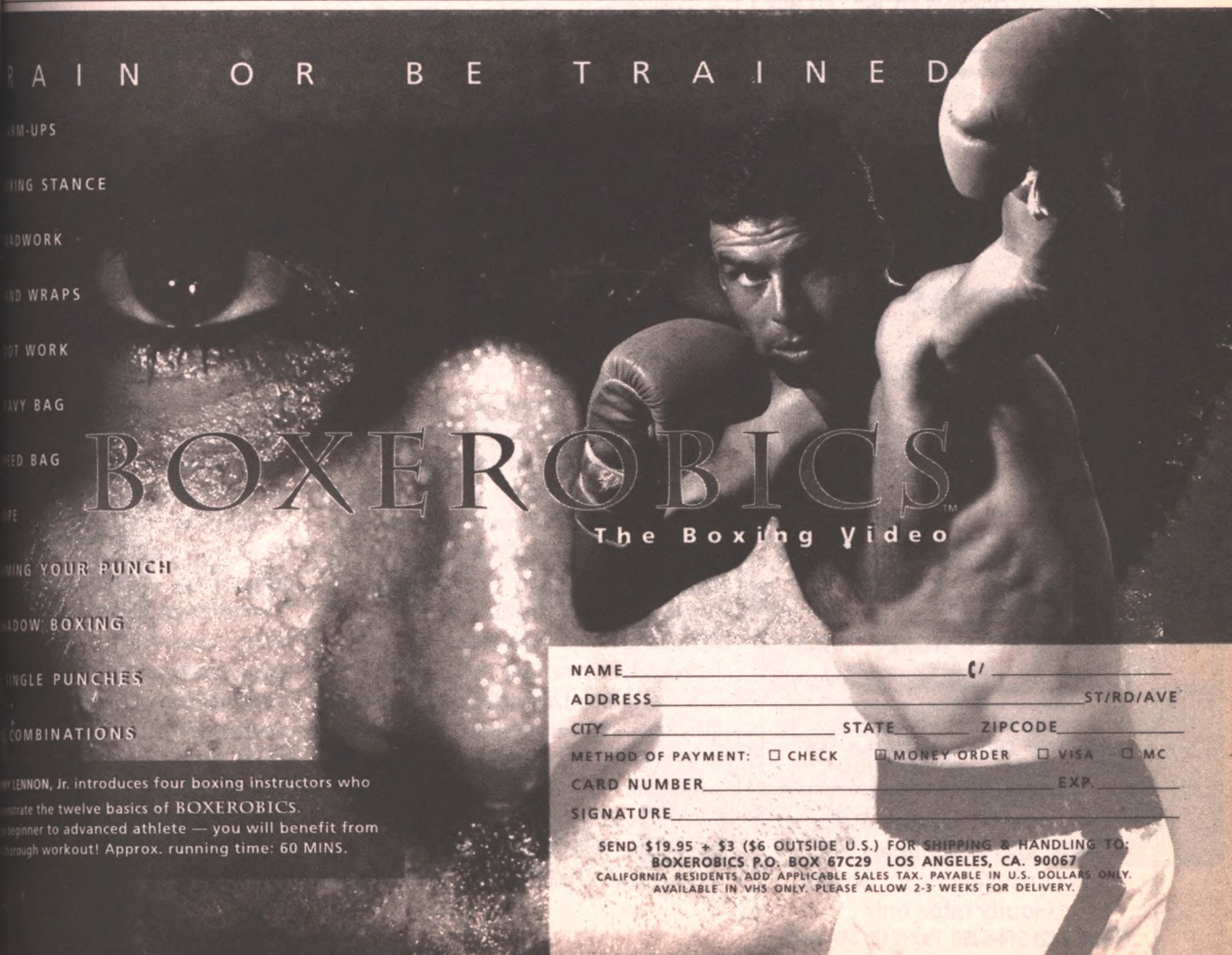
Lewis

(Continued from page 42

Less than a minute into the fight, a composed Lewis measured his foe and connected with his signature punch, the straight right, which dropped the 29-year-old Jackson. Had Jackson not risen, it's unlikely Lewis would have gotten proper credit. What does a 30-second kayo prove? Nevertheless, Correa nodded his head. Lewis had barely worked up a sweat.

Lewis, 235, London, England, used a top-notch jab to keep his counterpart at bay. While Jackson, 218, Miami, Florida, hit the champion with some quality left hooks, Lewis, whom Correa calls the best defensive heavyweight in the world, controlled the tempo all along. Lewis comfortably won the first four rounds by jabbing and boxing, and Jackson found it difficult to hurt

(Continued on page 74)



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Lewis

(Continued from page 73)

him. In the fifth, the British contingent got a scare when Jackson backed Lewis to the ropes, but it was clear Lewis' footwork caused him a brief stumble backward. As if to quickly prove he wasn't hurt, Lewis swarmed and caught Jackson flush on the right cheek with a right hand, and he went down. Jackson rose at five, and Lewis, still well under control, continued to swat away during and after the sound of the bell. Referee Arthur Mercante took a point from Lewis, but it was evident that the deduction would mean little in the end.

Even with the best fighter in the world, Pernell Whitaker, jumping up and down and violently yelling encouragement to Jackson, the challenger could do little. Despite a number-five ranking by the WBC and what appeared to be an impressive record, Jackson was best-known for his embarrassing showing against the same fighter Lewis had built his reputation against—Ruddock. Four months before Lewis got to Ruddock, Jackson suffered a fourth-round kayo. Afterward, he admitted he had quit. "I was overmatched, and I didn't want to jeopardize anything," he said days before the Lewis fight. "I wasn't in the best of shape, I had no defense, and there was no need for me to get hurt. I knew I'd see another day."

Jackson, 30-2 (27), had done his best to drown out the past, but as his *other* day approached, the questions kept resurfacing, thanks to the press. His effort against Lewis, though in vain, will surely not be remembered as an embarrassment.

Lewis, 25-0 (21), continued to dominate the slower, smaller, less experienced challenger, as he built a comfortable lead on all cards. Early in the eighth round, Whitaker got up and left the premises, sensing the inevitable. A minute later, Jackson went down for the third time. It was a sharp right followed by a right uppercut and finishing right that ultimately ended Jackson's challenge at the 1:35 mark and made the work of judges John Keane (England), John Stewart (USA), and Bob Logist (Belgium) irrelevant. Mercante called a halt without counting Jackson out. Lewis had done a typically clean job—and on his terms.

"He looked a lot easier to fight when I saw him on tape," Jackson said. "But when you're in there against a giant, it gets a lot more complicated. I think I fought the best heavy[weight] out there today."

If only Lewis could get the rest of the [world] to agree. Most of the talk afterward cent[ered on] Lewis' flaws, despite the punch stats that [showed] the champion connecting on 52 percent [of his] 471 punches, with the challenger landing [less] than a third of his 218.

Wallace Matthews, the acerbic *New [York] Post* columnist, interviewed Lewis for [the] minutes after the fight. He asked Lewis [what he] thought he had done. Lewis responded by [asking] Matthews, long a non-supporter, how *he* [thought] he had done. Matthews said coyly, "Buy [me a] tomorrow." If Lewis had, he wouldn't have [been] too pleased.

Before Matthews got to Lewis, a [reporter] Correa was gushing in the dressing [room]. "I wouldn't say this was his best fight, [but he] proved something to the public. I'm very [pleased] with what I saw, but the most important [thing] Lennox was pleased. That makes me very [happy]. When you're fighting for the heavyweight [title] everything is on the line. You've got to be [in the] best shape because you know there [are] megabucks down the line if you win."

For those who still want to know what [Lewis] is really made of, answers won't be [coming] anytime soon. The WBC mandatory challenger [is] Oliver McCall, another bland opponent [who] won't help secure more respect for Lewis. [Even] Moorer watched and yawned at ringside. [Even] he gets by his next opponent, whether it be [Bruce] Hipp or Joe Montana, a unification would [be] for a less-than-overwhelming heavyweight [title] showdown. What an irony: All three titles will [be] be up for grabs and the best active heavyweight [in] in the world, the title-less Riddick Bowe, will be sitting in his living room—and on his [way to] Beating Moorer and unifying the titles to [finally] do it. For Lewis to impress the masses on [this] side of the Atlantic, he must beat Bowe and [then] comebacking Mike Tyson.

"It's about time the American public [could] see some of Lennox Lewis' true talent," [Lewis] marked Lewis said at the postfight gathering. "I'm very happy. But I still feel there's a lot left to Lennox Lewis. As soon as I'm [matched] against a really good opponent, you'll see."

British heavyweight history suggests [Lewis] a sure bet to lose soon—though we can't be sure Lewis is like all Britons. It doesn't [matter] what he tells us. Maybe that's part of [the] problem—what Lewis tells us. There isn't [much] in content or feeling. He's not a trash-talker [like] he seems to—gosh—*respect* his opponent.

be secure with himself before, during, and er his fights, but Americans clearly don't share e same feeling.

Lewis is always in control and seldom ffled, and in a way, that has hurt him. He might ve been able to knock Jackson out in the first ound, but he also might have opened himself up punishment—and further ridicule—had he een carelessly caught by a bomb. Why risk it? ewis' style isn't going to change. About the only thing he can do to get proper credit is keep inning. Then, slowly, the recognition *may* me. Until then, why sweat it? The big fights n't always land on your lap. Lewis knows it es patience, and he has the perfect demeanor.

"Lennox is a very relaxed fighter, very tuned in what he's doing," Frank Maloney said after the ght. "What makes him unique is he has a great r of losing. Let's hope he keeps that fear going."

The chances are good McCall and Moorer n't have much of a fear of Lewis, but he esn't mind. He's just casually working his way ough win after win, never saying, or doing, ything that gets him in trouble. Maybe that's t really ticks off the press. Maybe someday Lewis will learn how things work on *this* side of the pond. ■

Hernandez

(Continued from page 16)

enjoys the role of aggressor. His brawling tactics and relentless pressure have been the keys to his success.

"I admire guys like Tyson, Duran, and Hagler," said Hernandez. "I like the bangers. I don't like to get hit, but if I do, I would like to say I could take a punch. I try to be both boxer and banger, depending on which works best, but I'm probably a little more on the banger side."

Hernandez is pleased with the development of his career. He recently signed a promotional contract with Forum Boxing, which will offer him a venue to showcase his talents on a consistent basis. Everything seems to be in place. There's got to be *something* wrong, right?

"If Carlos has a weakness," laughed McCoy, "I would say he spends a quite a bit of time trying to get in with the girls."

Hernandez, who was born in South Central Los Angeles (just down the street from WBA junior lightweight champion Genaro Hernandez), lives in Bellflower, California, with his parents, who arrived from their native El Salvador 22 years ago. Although the kindergarten bully engaged in more than his share of fights while growing up, it was strong family values that kept him away from drugs and jail. His parents stressed the importance of education and religion. It was Hernandez' grandfather, however, who made the most lasting impression.

"When I was a little kid, I would go to El Salvador to visit my grandfather, and I would beat up the little kids over there," Hernandez said with a grin. "They used to call me gringo because I didn't speak Spanish that well; I only spoke English. They would run to my grandfather crying, but he would take me aside and tell me I was going to be famous. He was a real strong man, somebody who I respected very much, so I kept the nickname in honor of him."

(Continued on page 76)

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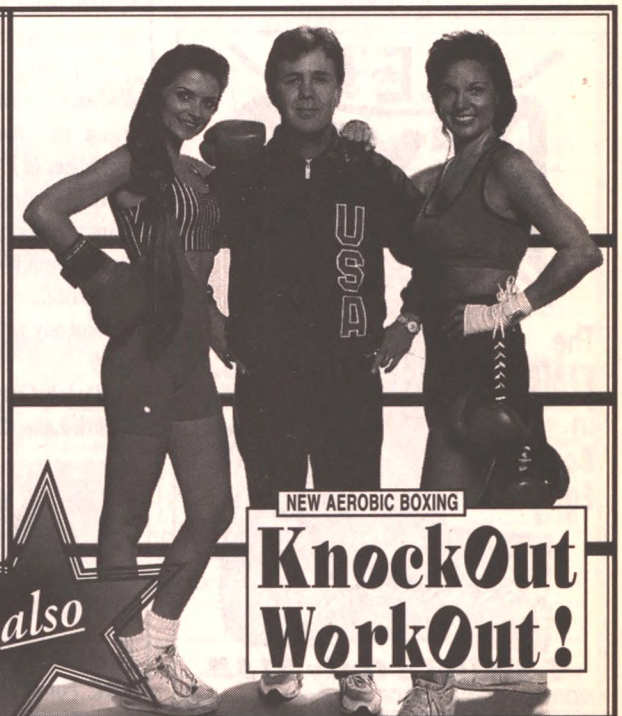

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Hernandez

(Continued from page 75)

In Hernandez' most recent performance—and his debut at the Great Western Forum—he squared off with slick veteran Narciso Valenzuela. It was a significant step up in class; Valenzuela had knocked down Oscar De La Hoya and gone the distance with Rafael Ruelas. Featuring a ferocious body attack and constant pressure, Hernandez dictated the pace from the opening round. He dominated all 10 rounds and cruised to a unanimous decision victory. He was a bit upset that he failed to finish Valenzuela, but McCoy continues to stress patience.

"I think within five to 10 fights he'll be able to fight anybody in his weight class," he said. "With the different titles they have out there, he should win one of them within the next year."

Hernandez feels it doesn't matter who he meets for the title. He wouldn't even rule out fighting Genaro Hernandez, whom he sees as a cousin though they are not related. "Genaro helps me out whenever he can; I wouldn't really want to fight him," he said, laughing. "But I guess if the money was right ... "

For now, at least, Carlos Hernandez isn't concerned with a potential showdown with his friend. He's too busy dreaming of becoming the first boxer of El Salvadorian descent to become a world champion, then returning to his grandfather's neighborhood so he can prove to the children his nickname was something more than wishful thinking.

Nobody said being famous was going to be easy. ■

Derek Gray is a freelance writer based in Toluca Lake, California.

Williams

(Continued from page 25)

to sneak a Mountain Dew behind Feldman's back. For the past nine years, Williams has left his wife and two kids back home in Mansfield, Ohio, and moved in with Feldman whenever he has a fight scheduled. It's a package deal; not only does he stay at his trainer's home in suburban Philadelphia, he spars on a regular basis with Feldman's sons, Damon and David, both undefeated pros.

"It's great that I live with Marty because it gives me a chance to stay straight, keep away from the things I shouldn't do," said Williams. "I believe I have the discipline to do it on my own, but it's good to have someone looking over your shoulder. And training in Philadelphia is a big plus. If you can handle yourself in the Philly gyms, you can fight anywhere in the world."

There's no denying that Williams-Toney is an intriguing fight. And you've got to hand it to Toney and Kallen for having the guts to take a fight where they have everything to lose. How many other fighters would tune up for a multimillion-dollar showdown with Roy Jones (scheduled for October 1) by fighting a man of Williams' stature? But Toney, 42-0-2 (28), has never tiptoed around the tough guys, a trait that some observers believe could make a difference against Williams.

"I think Prince Charles has been a waste of natural resources," said ABC boxing analyst Alex Wallau. "I remember when he made that tremendous comeback to win the title from Cruz. He's got ability and guts, but he's fought very few world-class opponents since then, and largely because of that, his career never really maximized itself.

"Toney, on the other hand, seems to go out of his way to fight the best possible opponents. But James has also been very inconsistent. After knocking out Michael Nunn to win the title, he barely scraped by against Reggie Johnson. Then after a great performance against Mike McCallum, he looked terrible against Tiberi, a fight I thought he lost. Still, he's a tremendous talent with the potential to be even greater. The Williams fight will go a long way toward showing whether or not he'll live up to that potential."

Williams, of course, is well aware of Toney's prowess and prestige. That's the reason he placed the call to Kallen in the first place. As far as he's concerned, Toney is the perfect opponent to jump-start his faltering career.

"Toney's a great fighter, but I'm better," said Williams. "He's never fought anybody with my ability and strength. He's going to be surprised how strong I am at 168. And you've got to look closely at some of the guys he's beaten. Michael Nunn was beating him to death before Toney got lucky and landed the left hook. Johnson and Tiberi gave him all kinds of problems. Iran Barkley was washed up. I honestly don't see it being a tough fight."

Williams certainly sounded confident, but others, including Wallau, aren't so sure he can

(Continued on page 79)

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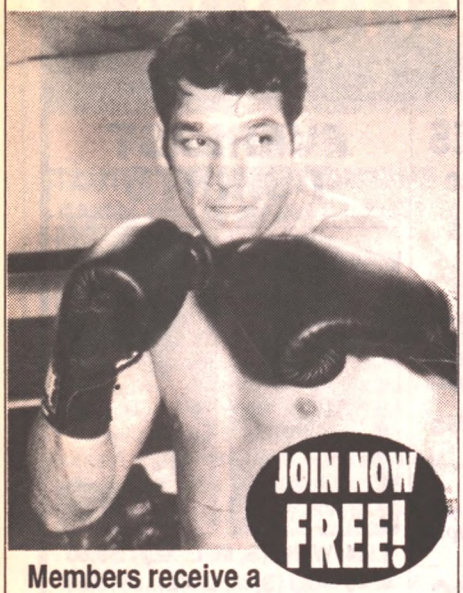

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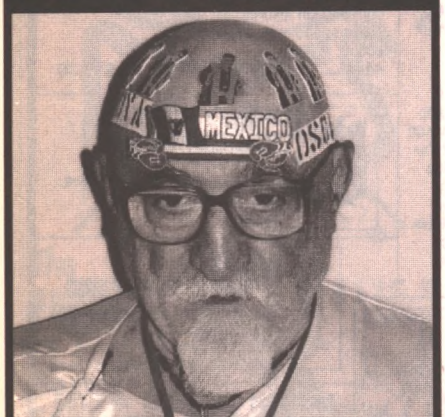

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Williams

(Continued from page 76)

pull if off so easily—if at all.

"It's a fascinating fight between two talented guys," Wallau said. "Prince Charles has a good jab, good skills, and his punches sting. If I were advising him, I'd suggest he work Toney's body. The way James moves his head, it's usually a waste of time trying to hit him there. Overall, I see a close fight, with Toney rising to the occasion and winning the decision by a margin of eight rounds to four, maybe seven to five. He just has superior boxing skills."

Two of the intangibles of any Toney fight are his arrogant attitude and practice of badmouthing opponents. Some adversaries are intimidated; some prove suckers for the bait and lose their cool; some are unaffected. You have to wonder if the usual trash-talk and posturing will fluster Williams.

"The only way he'll get Charles mad is if he doesn't show up that night," cracked Feldman.

The gregarious trainer, the same man who devised the strategy that led to Tiberi's surprisingly good showing against Toney, refused to reveal what he has in mind this time. But Williams already has a picture of the fight in his head, one that makes him smile when he thinks about it.

"I'm glad Toney has that macho thing about him," said Williams. "That means I won't have to chase him. The way I visualize it, I'll knock him out in less than 10 rounds and go home the new super middleweight champion of the world."

If that happens, he'll undoubtedly celebrate with his first soda in 2½ months. ■

What If...

(Continued from page 29)

THE WAY IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN

Duran decides to delay his move to welterweight for at least one more bout, opting for a million-dollar payday and a dream fight against newly crowned junior lightweight king Arguello. The Nicaraguan, who recently defended the title for the first time by stopping Rey Tam in five rounds, agrees to move up in weight in an attempt to earn a third crown. (Arguello will not have to abdicate his throne; win or lose against Duran, he'll leave the ring a champion.)

Duran's motivation is money, but also machismo and pride. Tired of hearing the experts all but canonize Arguello, he desperately wants to prove he's the best Latin fighter in the world. Even the gentleman, Arguello predicts victory in a humble, matter-of-fact manner. This further infuriates Duran, who says, "Remember what I did to Ray Lampkin? Arguello I'll hurt even worse!"

Asked to pick a winner, boxing pundits are split. Duran's supporters give him an edge in stamina, strength, and killer instinct. Arguello's height and reach, they argue, will turn out to be a weakness, not a strength. Duran will work inside, and Arguello's slow feet will doom him. *No one* trades with the great Duran.

Those in Arguello's corner are equally confident. His jab, they point out, is a multipurpose weapon that will enable him to control the terms of the fight. Arguello will keep Duran off-balance, and at some point display his superior one-punch power. The result: Duran will be knocked out.

The predictions aside, everyone agrees on one thing: The fight, to be held at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, is bound to be a war.

THE FIGHT

Round 1: As expected, Duran moves forward, bobbing and weaving as he tries to force his way inside. Sticking to his fight plan, Arguello throws jab after jab, successfully keeping Duran at bay. There are few powerpunches in the first half of the round. At the midpoint, Duran counters over a lazy jab and lands flush with a straight right. Arguello's knees buckle. Duran swarms, pounding the body as Arguello tries to clinch. At the bell, Duran shoves a fist into the air as he marches to his corner.

Rounds 2-3: Inspired by his success at the end of round one, Duran comes out even faster for the second. However, Arguello, completely recovered, repeatedly beats his opponent to the punch. Sensing the opportunity for a kayo has passed, Duran steps back and begins to box. Round three is a replay of the second, with Arguello maximizing the effectiveness of his reach advantage and landing the more solid shots.

Round 4: Duran continues to box and evades most of Arguello's jabs. But while not getting hit, he's not hitting his foe, either. Less than a minute into the round, Arguello suddenly plants his feet and initiates a trade. They exchange right hands, then Duran lunges and misses with a hook. Arguello's counter right lands flush on the jaw, and the crowd rises as Duran falls. He picks himself up at referee Mills Lane's count of six and indicates to his corner that he is not hurt. Motioning for Arguello to come in, he backs to the ropes and brilliantly blocks and slips most of the follow-

nches. After a clinch forces Lane to intervene, uran springs off the ropes and stuns Arguello th an overhand right. He then digs a double hook the body. Arguello answers with a short right ercut and a stinging jab. The crowd screams for fighters as they return to their corners.

Round 5: Arguello starts slowly, whether out respect for Duran's power or because of the mber of punches he threw in the previous round. a result, Duran consistently moves inside for first time. Clearly outmuscled, Arguello is ced to fight most of the round off the ropes. an's body attack turns Arguello's torso red. It e Panamanian's best round thus far, and the stanza that he has convincingly won.

Rounds 6-8: Arguello's corner screams structions during the rest period, and the fighter unds, presenting enough different angles to Duran's offense. His jab is ever-accurate, the threat of his dangerous counterpunches s Duran from swarming. Arguello takes the h, and the seventh and eighth as well.

Duran's frustration threatens to boil over in the nth, when he hurls Arguello to the canvas during linch. The normally mild-mannered Arguello unds by leaping to his feet and punching Duran und the head. Duran immediately attacks, and tead of reprimanding the fighters, Lane lets them uch. As the round concludes, Duran suffers a all cut over his left eye, and Arguello shows ght swelling under his left eye.

Round 9: Fighting with a sneer, Duran lands first punch of the round—a right to Arguello's in. Arguello falls to the canvas while grimacing pain. To the dismay of Duran's corner, Lane uickly deducts a point. After a 45-second delay, lightweights go toe to toe. A thrilling exchange highlighted by a Duran hook, which makes guello retreat. "Manos De Piedra" capitalizes by ching in and again concentrating on his foe's dy. Duran captures the stanza, but because of deduction, all three judges score 9-9.

Round 10: Arguello's left eye is beginning to ze, and blood begins to trickle from his nose. e opens with several stiff jabs, but they are not ompanied by any sort of movement, and uran charges inside. With less than 30 seconds maining, Duran steps inside a wide right and ggers Arguello with a hook to the head. guello covers up reasonably well, but Duran ertheless lands at least half-a-dozen punches before the bell.

Round 11: Behind on all cards, Duran senses ramatic shift in momentum. Seeking a second ad, Arguello stands directly in front of the ghtweight champion, and 45 seconds into the und a classic three-punch combination sends e Explosive Thin Man down. After Lane's mandatory count, Arguello attempts to answer punch for punch. He is initially successful, but Duran, mixing blows to the head and body, is far stronger. Arguello tries to hold. Duran, however, refuses to stop throwing punches. A right hand drives Arguello into the ropes. Duran begins to rain punches, and Lane jumps in, calling a halt at the 2:10 mark.

THE AFTERMATH

Longtime observers hail the bout as a classic, citing the fourth and ninth rounds as worthy of legend status. The clamor for a rematch arises even before the fighters return to their dressing rooms. But Duran immediately announces his jump to welterweight, and Arguello indicates he'll return to 130 pounds.

The fighters repeatedly compliment each other at the postfight press conference; missing is the animosity that tinged the prefight hype. "He is the best fighter I have ever faced," acknowledges Duran. "The welterweights will be nothing compared to Arguello."

"I believe I am a great fighter," Arguello says. "But Duran is a great fighter, too, and tonight he was the better man." ■

Ramos

(Continued from page 33)

When Chango Carmona took the WBC title by eighth-round kayo in September 1972—Ramos says he used heroin before the bout—they carried the ex-champion from the ring on a stretcher.

McCoy's last fight with Ramos was when the one-time sensation was stopped by Arturo Pineda in August '73. "Pineda was just kind of a gritty clubfighter," says McCoy, "and in the dressing room, I said, 'Hey, Mando, I never thought I'd see the day when you could get beat by a guy like this. I don't want you to fight anymore. I don't even want to see you in the gym.' But then I read where he was fighting in Europe."

"I was fighting light heavyweights," Ramos says of those final years. No matter, because he was drunk or stoned in the ring.

Finally, in 1975, it ended exactly where it had all started when Ramos was a boy, at the Sea Side Gym in Long Beach, California. All his money, his expensive homes and cars, and all the hangers-on who came with them were gone, and Ramos was sleeping at the gym.

"When I was through, and I ended up

(Continued on page 80)

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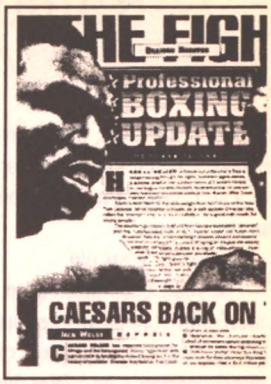

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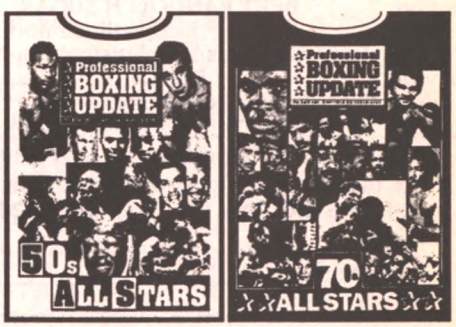

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Ramos

(Continued from page 79)

sleeping in the gym, then I knew no one cared," he says. "When you're on top, there's nothing you can't have. But when you're down, snakes can step on you."

He was 27 years old.

The road back started on the Los Angeles waterfront. Ramos worked as a longshoreman and joined Local 13 of the International Longshoreman's and Warehousemen's Union (ILW). "If not for that, I don't know where I'd be at," he says. "It was God-given to me."

He entered several alcohol and drug recovery programs: "I used to get sober for a while, and then get drunk again. Finally, the union sent me to a place."

On January 30, 1994, Ramos celebrated what Alcoholics Anonymous calls his "birthday"—the anniversary of the day he began to control his addiction. As on his previous 10 birthdays, Ramos spent the day telling others about the "horror and nightmare" that was his life before sobriety.

He still works full-time on the docks, and three days a week he works with youngsters in the BAAD program, teaching them not only about boxing, but about life.

"After every workout," he says, "BAAD members have to sit and listen to what I have to say. I've seen kids cry. I know their emotional pain, the hurt inside, and how they got the hurt."

He is convinced gang kids can be redeemed by the "art form" and discipline of boxing. But Ramos is equally certain boxing itself is in jeopardy until the people who run it are replaced.

"Ninety-nine and nine-tenths of them are ruthless and no good," he states flatly. "They don't care about boxers. They used me and they use all fighters, and when they're done we're just thrown away.

"There are so many great fighters that end up Tap City broke, and it's not fair. If you put five, 10 years in the ring, you should get something back. The way it is, the promoters and matchmakers get it, and they don't even get hit."

Ramos thinks part of the answer is a federal boxing commissioner and a single governing body. "There are so many titles out there now," he says. "They're making them up, and who's making the money? These promoters are giving the fighters a little corner of the pie."

Ramos recalls asking promoter Bob Arum a few years ago for a $100 contribution for BAAD's annual fund-raising golf tournament in Los Angeles. He's still waiting to hear back. "And look what happened to Mike Tyson," he says. "He was a good kid till he met Don King. He screwed that poor little guy."

Ramos' ultimate dream, for which he and BAAD and fellow former world champions Carlos Palomino and Danny Lopez are now laying groundwork, is a trade union that will do for boxers what the ILW did for Ramos.

"In our union, we work together," he says. "That's what we need to do in boxing. I believe [in unions] so strongly. Fighters need a pension plan and health benefits so that when they're 45 they have something. We need a union in boxing so people will see a future in boxing.

"Until that happens, all we are is a piece of meat."

Pete Ehrmann, a frequent contributor to THE RING, is based in West Allis, Wisconsin.

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Fiske On Fights

By Jack Fiske

How many kids today have photos of their favorite fighters tacked up in their bedrooms? Not a lot, I guarantee you. Boxing today needs heroes. Boy, does it ever!

Never in my memory has the sport so sadly lacked genuine role models, fighters the fans can truly look up to, fighters who stir the imagination and attract the attention of the ordinary Joe, whether he attends the fights or not.

The vast majority of world champions today don't hold on to their titles long enough to become recognizable names. Their faces are indistinguishable. The proliferation of titleholders and weight divisions robs the game of the opportunity to showcase the few deserving, extra-talented performers.

Six-dozen world champions, greedy alphabet organizations, and umpteen weight classes are millstones, but there's a new handicap to overcome.

Nowadays, trash-talking is considered an asset, like feinting and slipping in the days when boxing had the respect of the public and the media. Only a handful of top fighters stick to the business of boxing rather than bad-mouthing their opponents and staring them down in an infantile and ridiculous manner. It's enough to make you laugh—if it wasn't so damaging to the game.

With few exceptions, today's highly touted fighters are dreary caricatures of their predecessors, champions like Joe Louis, Rocky Marciano, Ray Robinson, Ezzard Charles, Floyd Patterson, Tony Zale, and many others from the '40s, '50s, and '60s, an era I knew and reveled in. Even the esteemed Muhammad Ali, for all his worldwide appeal and the vast store of riches he contributed to the sport, gets censure here for initiating the too long-lasting shtick of delivering diatribes on his opponent's manhood, family, and physical attributes. At least in Ali's case, we knew, after a time, that it was merely a put-on. The louts today mean it. And it doesn't stop after the final bell. Postfight altercations are too frequent to be dismissed as aberrations.

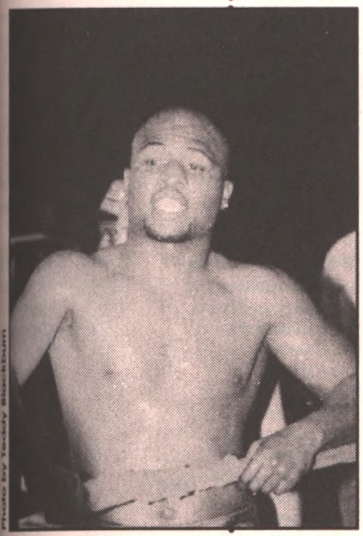


Photo by Tacky Stoltzfus

Toney: Too much trash-talk

In making a short list of today's icons, I'm hard-pressed to come up with names other than George Foreman, Pernell Whitaker, Buddy McGirt, Evander Holyfield, and perhaps Julio Cesar Chavez, until he played crybaby after suffering his first defeat. James Toney, Vinny Pazienza, Roberto Duran, Terry Norris, Michael Nunn, Greg Haugen, Roger Mayweather, Fred Pendleton, Mike Tyson, Roy Jones, Hector Camacho, and Riddick Bowe (and his manager, Rock Newman), all reigning or former world champions, don't know the difference between providing entertainment with class and posturing and contaminating the air (and airwaves) with expletives.

Only a short time ago, Marvelous Marvin Hagler, Ray Leonard, and Tommy Hearns were idolized for their ring skills and nothing else, except perhaps the professional manner in which they conducted themselves during and after a contest. I bet their pictures are still on the bedroom walls of the fans who remember "the silent era," when fighters were judged strictly by their talent, and not their mouths.

***

By Their Words Shall Ye Know Them: "This has all the makings of a very competitive fight. I'm really looking forward to it. You can forget the record of [FILL IN NAME]; the number of losses is deceptive. His opponent, [FILL IN NAME], has only six knockouts in 40 fights, but [FIGHTER A] is going to have to look out for his right hand. I wouldn't be surprised if one of them wins tonight and somewhere down the road Top Rank will get him a title shot."

—ESPN blow-by-blow announcer Barry Tompkins ■

Worldwide Ratings

WBC
as of April

WBA
as of March

IBF
as of April

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	–	–
Evander Holyfield (USA)	–	C	C
Oliver McCall (USA)	1	2	2
Tony Tucker (USA)	2	3	3
Lionel Butler (USA)	3	12	–
Joe Hipp (USA)	4	6	–
Phil Jackson (USA)	5	7	10
Corrie Sanders (SA)	6	8	6
Bruce Seldon (USA)	7	–	5
Larry Holmes (USA)	8	–	–
Jorge Luis Gonzalez (CUBA)	9	10	12
Henry Akinwande (GB)	10	9	7
Michael Moorer (USA)	–	1	1
Riddick Bowe (USA)	–	4	4
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	13	5	–
Buster Mathis (USA)	16	–	8
George Foreman (USA)	–	–	9

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	–	–
Orlin Norris (USA)	–	C	–
Alfred Cole (USA)	–	–	C
Norbert Ekassi (CAM)	1	5	8
Akim Tafer (FRA)	2	10	12
Carl Thompson (GB)	3	11	11
Kenny Keene (USA)	4	8	–
Adolpho Washington (USA)	5	–	3
Arthur Williams (USA)	6	1	6
Jade Scott (USA)	7	–	7
Bobby Czyz (USA)	8	2	–
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	9	–	–
Chemak Saleta (POL)	10	–	10
Thomas Hearns (USA)	–	3	5
Nate Miller (USA)	–	4	1
Robert Daniels (USA)	–	6	9
James Warring (USA)	20	7	–
Marcelo Figueroa (ARG)	23	9	–
Uriah Grant (USA)	15	–	2
Richard Mason (USA)	–	–	4

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	C	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Henry Maske (GER)	–	–	C
Mike McCallum (JAM)	1	4	6
Frank Tate (USA)	2	1	3
Randall Yonker (USA)	3	11	–
Egerton Marcus (CAN)	4	8	2
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	5	3	7
Charles Williams (USA)	6	–	1
Darius Michalczewski (POL)	7	7	4
Maurice Core (GB)	8	–	–
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	9	6	10
Ernest Mateen (USA)	10	–	–
Wang Sup Lee (KOR)	–	2	–
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	–	5	9
Brent Kosolofski (CAN)	–	9	–
Drake Thadzi (CAN)	–	10	–
Ernie Magdaleno (USA)	–	12	5
John Scully (USA)	27	–	8

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nigel Benn (GB)	C	–	–
Steve Little (USA)	–	C	–
James Toney (USA)	–	–	C
Frank Liles (USA)	1	1	6
Henry Wharton (GB)	2	10	10
Michael Nunn (USA)	3	3	2
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	4	9	8
Frederic Seiller (FRA)	5	–	–
Tony Byrd (USA)	6	2	1
Tony Thornton (USA)	7	–	5
Thulane Malinga (SA)	8	–	–
Juan Carlos Gimenez (PAR)	9	–	–
Kenny Bowman (USA)	10	–	–
Frank Nicotra (FRA)	22	4	11
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	–	5	–
James Cook (GB)	17	6	–
Tim Littles (USA)	12	7	4
Byun Gin Kang (KOR)	–	8	–
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	–	–	3
Ray Close (GB)	–	–	7
Lonnie Bradley (USA)	–	–	9

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gerald McClellan (USA)	C	–	–
John David Jackson (USA)	–	C	–
Roy Jones (USA)	–	–	C
Lamar Parks (USA)	1	1	5
Julian Jackson (VI)	2	7	3
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	3	–	–
Quincy Taylor (USA)	4	11	12
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	5	10	–
Neville Brown (GB)	6	–	8
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	7	5	2
Roberto Duran (PAN)	8	9	10
Reggie Johnson (USA)	9	2	6
Joe Lipsey (USA)	10	12	7
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	3	–
Steve Collins (IRE)	–	4	–
Segundo Mercado (ECU)	12	6	4
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	16	8	–
Thomas Tate (USA)	–	–	1
Charles Brewer (USA)	–	–	9

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Simon Brown (USA)	C	–	–
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	–	C	–
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	–	–	C
Terry Norris (USA)	1	8	3
Ronald Wright (USA)	2	1	5
Carl Daniels (USA)	3	4	2
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	4	–	12
Julio C. Green (USA)	5	6	4
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	6	3	9
Robert McCracken (GB)	7	–	10
Stephen Martinez (USA)	8	–	–
Darrin Morris (USA)	9	–	8
Patrick Mbehbenle (CAMER)	10	–	–
Aaron Davis (USA)	17	2	–
Peter Venancio (BRA)	28	5	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	7	1
Ahmat Dottuev (RUS)	27	9	–
Bernard Razzano (FRA)	24	10	11
Gilberto Barreto (COL)	–	–	6
Paul Vaden (USA)	12	–	7

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
James McGirt (USA)	1	9	6
Oba Carr (USA)	2	10	4
Larry Barnes (USA)	3	–	2
Gary Jacobs (GB)	4	6	–
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	5	–	7
Andrew Murray (GUY)	6	4	5
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	7	8	9
Santos Cardona (PR)	8	–	–
Luis Santana (USA)	9	–	–
Hector Camacho (PR)	10	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	1	3
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	–	2	1
Gert Bo Jacobsen (DEN)	–	3	–
Jung Oh Park (KOR)	11	5	–
Freddy Ladd (USA)	–	7	11
David Gonzalez (USA)	13	–	8
Harold Brazier (USA)	14	–	10

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Frankie Randall (USA)	C	–	–
Juan M. Coggi (ARG)	–	C	–
Jake Rodriguez (USA)	–	–	C

Chavez (MEX)	1	1	–
(USA)	2	7	–
(AUSTRL)	3	–	1
(USA)	4	–	–
(USA)	5	–	–
(GB)	6	8	–
(MEX)	7	–	–
(FRA)	8	–	–
(MEX)	9	–	–
(USA)	10	–	–
(FRA)	22	2	11
(ARG)	–	3	–
(SA)	–	4	–
(KOR)	–	5	–
(COL)	11	6	7
(FRA)	–	9	–
(USA)	–	10	–
(DR)	–	–	2
(USA)	20	–	3
(USA)	21	–	4
(COL)	–	–	5
(PR)	–	–	6
(USA)	17	–	8
(USA)	–	–	9
(USA)	18	11	10

WEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	–
Olzubek (JAP)	–	C	–
(USA)	–	–	C
Johnson (USA)	1	1	2
(COL)	2	7	1
Mendy (FRA)	3	5	12
Marchena (MEX)	4	–	–
(GB)	5	–	7
(MEX)	6	–	–
Rocha (COL)	7	–	–
Mitchell (USA)	8	4	10
Silva (ARG)	9	–	–
Pendleton (USA)	10	–	3
(USA)	–	2	–
(ARG)	–	3	–
(USA)	–	6	6
(USA)	19	8	9
Molina (COL)	27	9	4
Thobela (SA)	14	10	11
Marimon (COL)	–	–	5
(USA)	–	–	8

IGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nelson (GHA)	C	–	–
Hernandez (USA)	–	C	–
Molina (PR)	–	–	C
Rueles (USA)	1	4	4
Leija (USA)	2	–	–
Garcia (COL)	3	–	–
Yorna (FRA)	4	6	6
Grove (USA)	5	–	2
Taur (HOLL)	6	–	9
(CAN)	7	–	–
(USA)	8	8	5
Hugo Paz (ARG)	9	3	–
Speed (USA)	10	–	8
Guevara (VEN)	18	1	–
Garcia (COL)	–	2	–
Warren (USA)	15	5	–
Soo Choi (KOR)	23	7	–
Rodriguez (DR)	12	9	1
Murphy (USA)	–	10	–
Pedroza (COL)	–	–	3
Vargas (MEX)	–	–	7
Rodriguez (USA)	–	–	10

THERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Kelley (USA)	C	–	–
Rojas (VEN)	–	C	–
Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Soto (MEX)	1	–	–
Gonzalez (MEX)	2	–	5
Arroyal (PHIL)	3	3	4
Releno (COL)	4	7	2
Lizarraga (USA)	5	–	–
Segura (USA)	6	10	1
Green (USA)	7	–	3
Kyun Park (KOR)	8	2	–
Vida Ramos (DR)	9	–	–
Espinoza (USA)	10	–	–
Mendoza (COL)	–	1	–
Saguid (PHIL)	14	4	12

Jesse James Leija (USA)	–	5	–
Samart Payakaroon (THAI)	–	6	–
Orlando Soto (PAN)	17	8	7
Sean Murphy (GB)	–	9	–
Jose Badillo (PR)	–	–	6
Benny Amparo (USA)	19	–	8
Harold Warren (USA)	–	–	9
Ole Kiatwanway (THAI)	–	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Tracy Patterson (USA)	C	–	–
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	–	C	–
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	–	–	C
Julio Gervacio (DR)	1	–	4
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	2	–	–
Freddy Cruz (DR)	3	–	–
Jesus Salud (USA)	4	10	6
Jesse Benavides (USA)	5	–	–
Yong Woon Park (KOR)	6	–	–
Rudy Zavala (USA)	7	11	–
Jose Badillo (PR)	8	–	–
Hiroaki Yokota (JAP)	9	6	–
Frank Toledo (USA)	10	–	–
Jae Won Choi (KOR)	–	1	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	13	2	–
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	–	3	–
Arnulfo Romero (PAN)	15	4	–
Welcome Ncita (SA)	–	5	1
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	20	7	–
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	18	8	–
Nestor Farias (ARG)	11	9	–
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	2
Pablo Ozuna (COL)	–	–	3
Maui Diaz (USA)	21	–	5
Cesar Soto (MEX)	–	–	7
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	8
Jose Rincones (VEN)	22	–	9
Cesar Polanco (DR)	–	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yasuei Yakushiji (JAP)	C	–	–
Junior Jones (USA)	10	C	–
Orlando Canizales (USA)	–	–	C
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	1	–	–
Jung Il Byun (KOR)	2	10	–
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	3	–	8
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	4	1	3
Marco Antonio Barrera (MEX)	5	–	–
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	6	9	12
Dong Choon Lee (KOR)	7	–	–
John Armour (GB)	8	–	–
Roberto Moran (ARG)	9	–	–
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	13	2	–
Eliecer Julio (COL)	12	3	10
Eddie Cook (USA)	–	4	5
Abraham Torres (VEN)	29	5	9
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	6	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	–	7	–
Frank Toledo (USA)	–	8	–
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	1
Harold Mestre (COL)	16	11	2
Lauren Ramirez (SPA)	–	–	4
Ricardo Vargas (MEX)	22	–	6
Derrick Whiteboy (SA)	30	–	7

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	C	–	–
Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)	–	C	–
Julio Borboa (MEX)	–	–	C
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	1	4	–
Sung Kil Moon (KOR)	2	–	–
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	3	6	–
Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI)	4	2	–
Cecilio Espino (MEX)	5	12	–
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	6	9	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	7	–	–
Domingo Sosa (DR)	8	–	–
Armando Salazar (MEX)	9	–	–
Noel Cogollo (COL)	10	–	–
Hyung Chul Lee (KOR)	–	1	–
Ernesto Briceno (VEN)	–	3	–
Ernie Cataluna (PHIL)	–	5	–
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	24	7	–
Ricardo Vargas (MEX)	–	8	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	18	10	–
Harold Gray (COL)	–	–	1
Robert Quiroga (USA)	–	–	2
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	–	3
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	16	–	4

Carlos Mercado (COL)	–	–	5
Jaji Sibali (SA)	20	–	6
Marco A. Barrera (MEX)	–	–	7
Rolando Bohol (PHIL)	–	–	8
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	–	–	9
Lamhot Simamora (INDO)	12	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
San Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	C	–
Phichit Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	–	C
Hugo Soto (ARG)	1	12	–
Chatchai Eric-Gym (THAI)	2	–	–
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	3	–	–
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	4	–	8
Mark Johnson (USA)	5	–	3
Danny Nunez (DR)	6	–	–
Raul Rios (MEX)	7	–	–
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	8	–	–
Nam Hoon Cha (KOR)	9	–	–
Enrique Orozco (MEX)	10	–	–
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	29	1	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	–	2	–
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	–	3	–
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	–	4	–
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	23	5	–
David Griman (VEN)	15	6	–
Yong Kang Kim (KOR)	–	7	–
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	–	8	1
Chokchai Chorniwat (THAI)	–	9	–
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	21	10	–
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	18	–	2
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	–	–	4
Robbie Regan (GB)	11	11	5
Alfred Kotey (GHA)	–	–	6
Danny Romero (USA)	12	–	7
Arthur Johnson (USA)	–	–	9
Miguel Martinez (MEX)	22	–	10

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	C
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	C	–
Michael Carbajal (USA)	1	3	1
Javier Varguez (MEX)	2	–	–
Jesus Chong (MEX)	3	6	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	4	8	4
Miguel Angel Granados (MEX)	5	–	–
Manuel de Jesus Herrera (DR)	6	–	–
Fahlan Sakkirin (THAI)	7	4	2
Toto Pow Phongsawang (THAI)	8	–	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	9	–	–
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	10	9	10
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	19	1	–
Virgilio Chifundo (PAN)	25	2	–
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	13	5	11
Juan A. Torres (PAN)	26	7	6
Yong Jin Kim (KOR)	22	10	–
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	–	–	3
Robinson Cuesta (PAN)	–	–	5
Leon Salazar (PAN)	–	–	7
Azadin Anhar (INDO)	–	–	8
Marcos Pacheco (MEX)	29	–	9

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	C
Kermin Guardia (COL)	1	3	–
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	2	5	7
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	3	–	–
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	4	2	1
Jin Ho Kim (KOR)	5	1	–
Rocky Lin (JAP)	6	12	12
Jack Russell (AUSTRL)	7	–	–
Naknoi Sow Thanikul (THAI)	8	–	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	9	10	–
Onewin Chareon (THAI)	10	–	3
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	19	4	–
Saman Sor Jaturong (THAI)	16	6	–
Seo Kjin Yang (KOR)	11	7	–
Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan (THAI)	30	8	2
Tomonori Tamura (JAP)	–	9	–
Marcelino Bolivar (VEN)	–	–	4
Felix Naranjo (COL)	–	–	5
Ronnie Magramo (PHIL)	23	11	6
Rafael Torres (DR)	–	–	8
Roger Espanola (PHIL)	–	–	9
Oscar Flores (COL)	–	–	10

CLASSIC

AN OPEN LETTER TO MAX BAER

From THE RING, January 1935

HEAVYWEIGHT KING

d W. Smith

he beaten champion, through puffed and
ips, mumbled something about not being
w as his tottering figure was helped out of
"

-ceful account of a great ring battle just a
ars back.

d who was it who wrote that immortal
called "The Playboy's Lament" and sent it
o posterity? Was it Keats or Browning, or,
, was it Ace Hudkins or the late Harry
Or it might have been Maxie Rosenbloom
f.

any rate, this is it:

Which is the right life,
e simple or the night life?
ere, pray, should one arise,
sunset or sunrise?
hich should be upper,
breakfast or my supper?
e simple or the night life—
hich life?

d all of that strangely subtle little question
es this open letter to Max Baer,
weight champion of the world—Mr. Baer,
uriant luxurist, somewhere on a safari,
where on his endless divergings around the
m World.

ear Mr. Baer,

is not the purpose of this communication to
in any way about your general scheme
e, which of course is your own, but we
call your attention to the indisputable fact
ideness has killed more champions than
blows from an opponent—not at all, you
rstand, in the sense of physical demise, but
ource of ending their athletic careers. It has
ured to me to sense the danger of your
ion and to say something about it. People
alking, and as a friend of yours, I am
ed.

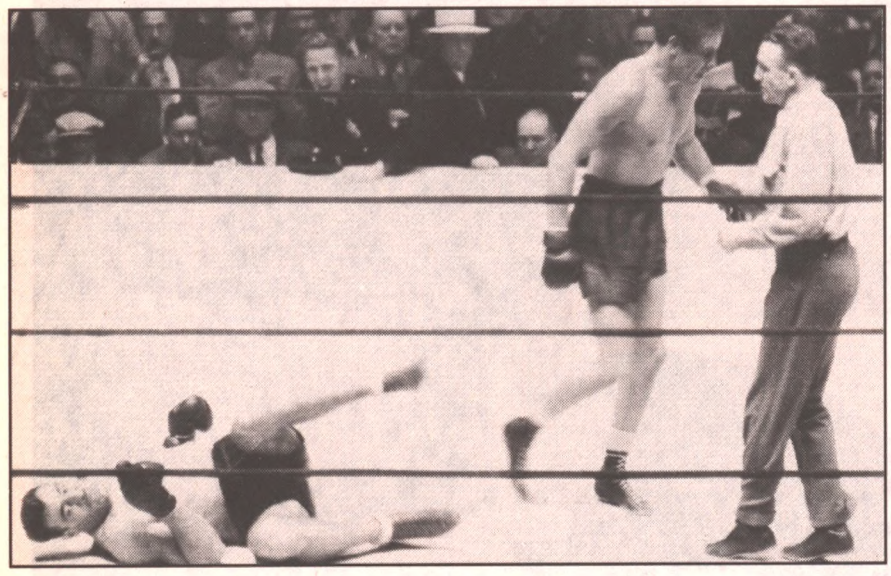
What Kismet has in store for you is
retellable, but, Max, you can't make a fool of
uth. The social lion quickly becomes the
lamb.

Harking back to the distant past, we recall
most all of the champions have failed
gh sources that could be traced directly to
rious habits, not necessarily of a vicious

Before you get the wrong idea, this is a photo of Max Baer with his cousin, Ina Edelstein of Brooklyn, New York. If Baer is to keep the heavyweight title, he's going to have to limit his social engagements and concentrate on training. Many a champion has been downed by inactivity and a busy social life.

nature, you understand, but yet luxurious to the degree that said champions were taken out of the beaten paths that should be trodden by all real champions—the paths of rectitude, of fortitude, submerging one's self in the general cleanliness that all good athletes are called upon to observe.

There came initially, the mighty John L. Sullivan, first man under the Queensbury code to make the five-ounce glove a prominent weapon of warfare. John at one time was a man of wonderful parts, and the fear of him made his mere name a terror in all paths that fighters sought. But he sagged away, oh, so far! Even in his salad days, when he was looked upon as unbeatable, he had a terrible time with a man who wasn't really great—Jake Kilrain. And he couldn't whip a mere middleweight in the person of Charley Mitchell, bare knuckles and all, in an



Baer is dwarfed by world champion Primo Carnera as the heavyweights sign for their fight (above). In the ring, Baer easily cut Carnera down to size, taking the title by 11th-round TKO in June 1934 (below).

encounter that really should have been easy for a man with such a reputation.

John lost his title to a bank clerk of few physical attainments—James J. Corbett—but a man who outsmarted him by living a lowly and discriminating life, if not of the godly sort, at least of the righteous. You see, Max, Sullivan died athletically of what might be termed dry rot, although John never could be categorized as among the "drys," as we came later to know the expression. His was the life of ease because he was not called upon, through adulation of his vast following, to be anything else.

Corbett adopted similar lines in a different manner. He, too, was luxurious, but his luxuriousness had some meaning, some sense. James was out to make money, but his yearning was for the stage end of it. He fought when called upon, didn't care much for liquor, yet he stepped fast among fast-steppers. Without particularly notable physical attainments, as already noted, and of which you are so plentifully endowed, Jim did wonders. We'll pass that over and say that the beloved Jim was a notable exception.

Came next the freak Fitzsimmons, not an intellectual giant, but a whale of a man physically. He had the underpinning of a welterweight, but the torso, arms, and back of a 200-pounder. He was of the fighting instinct with a strong undercurrent of a yen for idling passion was diamonds and a super-smart style dressing himself and his people. He had an taste in the matter of liquor—two parts wh and one part Worcestershire sauce! If wouldn't burn you, Max, my dear boy! Yet, ring work, tricky, crafty, with a wizardry hitting that was almost unbeatable. Yet he sag badly.

Then popped up the honest old boilerma of the story—ponderous and somewhat str James J. Jeffries, son of an itinerant preacher Ohio, and who later himself got religion a wanted to preach. Jim stepped into the mahog frame of this picture with a flare, a tremend man all covered with hair like a gorilla, a properly three-sheeted and banner-lined. caught the fading and rather threadbar Fitzsimmons in an unwary moment and whip him to a frazzle. Another strong case of luxurious style of playing around by the frecki one.

Big Jeff liked the bright lights, the smar ways of the hero worshiper, and the adulation those who frequented his Los Angeles drinki shop. Already huge and terror-inspiring, became bigger still and finally announced that wished no more commerce with the fighti game.

***

During the interims of his suzerainty, the came Marvin Hart of Louisville and Tom Burns of Canada, to whom Jeff, too busy w idleness to think of fighting, gladly assented giving the big title over into their possessio Jack Root of Chicago and Jack O'Brien Philadelphia likewise were present, but not tak any too seriously.

Burns was the real article, it developed, at least was so regarded, Jeffries himself bei among those who airily said, "Take 'er, my bo and God bless you!" Tommy, too, was a luxuri He really didn't know it, but the trait develop quickly. He and his manager, Billy Neill, spre it on so thick, they looked like a portion Haverly's minstrel parade coming down Boul. They wore tall silk hats and wide-flun frock coats during daylight hours and otherwi outraged the conventional, doing many thing sartorial that were not considered *au fait* amon our first families. They opened wine in publi but drank water in private, until they got England, where the British sports taught th what their leading tipplers considered good ta

p.m. and good judgment, if any, at 2 a.m. drink in England or you don't belong.

***

A huge Negro, Jack Johnson, supported by Fitzpatrick and a considerable bankroll, up the chase around the world, through and Ireland—Johnson and Sam always just a few jumps behind. They caught up to Tommy and Billy in Sydney, Australia, and that was the road's end. Johnson demanded a fight, and Burns, thinking to stall a while and never dreaming it would be taken seriously, asked $30,000 for his end to battle the Negro. The luxurist was cornered, knew it, and took his seemingly simple way out. To his consternation, promoter Hugh McIntosh agreed to provide that amount. Johnson was easily satisfied financially, and away they went. Again luxurious life got in its work. Burns was beaten soundly.

Of Johnson, little need be said. He came back to America, shook off his faithful friend, Sam Fitzpatrick, and thereafter didn't have much luck. But his arrogant attitude grated on American people, and there was a strong demand for his

THE RING RATINGS, *January 1935*

Freddie Miller

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Max Baer
1. Steve Hamas
2. Art Lasky
3. Primo Carnera
4. Max Schmeling
5. Patsy Perroni
6. Jack Peterson
7. Natie Brown
8. Johnny Risko
9. King Levinsky
10. Lee Ramage

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Bob Olin
1. Maxie Rosenbloom
2. Tony Shucco
3. Joe Knight
4. Al Gainer
5. Ambrose Palmer
6. John Henry Lewis
7. Johnny Miller
8. Tait Littman
9. Fred Lenhart
10. Al McCoy

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Marcel Thil
1. Teddy Yarosz
2. Young Corbett
3. Paul Pirrone
4. Oscar Rankins
5. Carmelo Candel
6. Vince Dundee
7. Jock McAvoy
8. Fred Henneberry
9. Freddy Steele
10. Lew Halper

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Jimmy McLarnin
1. Kid Azteca
2. Ceferino Garcia
3. Bobby Pacho
4. Harry Dublinsky
5. Tony Falco
6. Bep Van Klaveren
7. Eddie Kid Wolfe
8. Willard Brown
9. Tiger Burns
10. Jack Carroll

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Barney Ross
1. Tony Canzoneri
2. Frankie Klick
3. Young Peter Jackson
4. Tiger Humery
5. Cleto Locatelli
6. Lou Ambers
7. Eddie Cool
8. Lew Massey
9. Tracey Cox
10. Benny Bass

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Freddy Miller
1. Baby Arizmendi
2. Mike Belloise
3. Nel Tarleton
4. Petey Hayes
5. Petey Sarron
6. Joe Conde
7. Johnny Pena
8. Henry Armstrong
9. Merv Blandon
10. Jackie Wilson

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Al Brown
1. Sixto Escobar
2. Speedy Dado
3. Pablo Dano
4. Young Tommy
5. Louis Salica
6. Star Frisco
7. Baby Quintana
8. Little Pancho
9. Joe Tei Ken
10. Henry Moreno

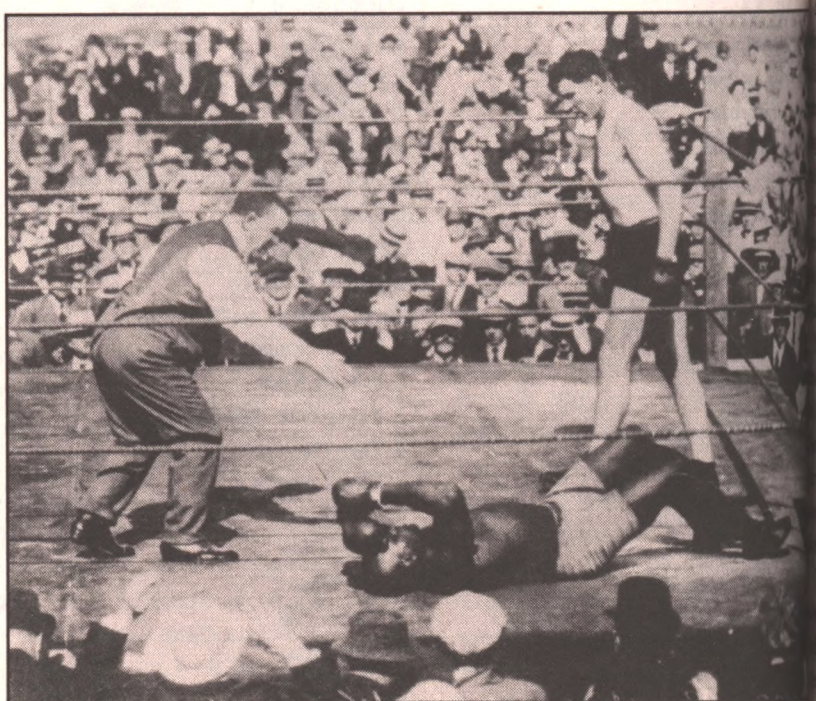
FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Title Vacant
1. Midget Wolgast
2. Jackie Brown
3. Benny Lynch
4. Valentin Anglemann
5. Maurice Huguenin
6. Young Siki
7. Tommy Pardoe
8. Joe Mendiola
9. Bobby McGhee
10. Phil Milligan

Different champions have treated the heavyweight title in different ways. For James J. Corbett, the title presented an opportunity for him to pursue his passion—the stage.

defeat and immediate transport to oblivion. They tried to cajole Jeffries out of retirement and off rum-soaked Spring Street in Los Angeles, but not until Tex Rickard and Jack Gleason, ill-assorted teammates in promotion, put the bid up to $101,000, along with plenty of garnishments, did Jeff agree to fare forth again. Alas! "The grape" had done its work all too well. Jeff was too flabby to stand training and was bowled over miserably.

Johnson got into serious difficulties, chiefly through flaunting his newly acquired luxury tastes, and they picked out the best man they thought to lick him. Jess Willard did the trick in Havana, Cuba, Johnson wilting under a scorching noon-day sun on the Oriental race track. Willard was accepted as a real champion, but he was hardly that. He had small mental acumen, no balance of a physical nature, and fell into the sloppy ways of the circus with which he traveled at a huge daily wage.

He liked his toddy straight and often, defended his title but once during his tenure of



Given his lifestyle and his infrequent appearances in the ring, it's amazing Jack Johnson kept the [illegible] as long as he did. He finally lost the crown to Jess Willard in April 1915.

office, and when the fresh, young Dempsey, [illegible] and desperate, took him on in Toledo, it was a question of how soon the newcomer would one deep into the highball department and the title. You see, Willard was sort homespun luxurist. He did all of his b around behind locked doors. Hence, the p saw and knew little.

At that, Dempsey had difficulties with huge ex-cowhand. He really won in the round, but difficulties with the bell sent it on the fourth, which found Dempsey almost as as was the well-whipped Willard. Jack's carried him through; Willard tossed in his tow

***

Dempsey didn't drink, but his idleness inclination for things other than his profession brought him a lot of woe. His idle started athletic dry rot, and in almost e defense of his title he had trouble. W Carpentier, who almost knocked Jack out in second round, with Firpo, whom many still should have had the verdict, with Bill Brenna Madison Square Garden, with Tom Gibbons Montana. Dempsey, won, but always had to the smile of Fortune. Never afterward could attain the physical perfection of that afternoon Toledo in 1919.

Gene Tunney didn't need my advice anybody's to know when his turning point been reached. He took a fortune while the ta was excellent, and then told the boys they c

Dempsey rarely defended the title, and at times it seemed he had others for him. Inactivity affected the quality of his performances, and he matched his effort in winning the title from Jess Willard in July 1919.

the leavings—smart enough to know the human frame cannot stand ything, even if it is cared for in the intelligent manner he always showed. No use rehearsing the Chicago long count and such things. The Dempsey had been shifted over to Tunney's well-shaped shoulders and there ained. No use, either, to dissect the nondescripts who came after and who ually led up to your victory over the second foreign holder of that bauble known as the title. You know them as well or better than I do.

***

But of some few things I claim superior, preeminent knowledge, and of champions learn only after bitter experience. I would speak of the ls that have beset all champions from Figg on down, and more ially deep in these later days of our boasted civilization. These are such as the irregularity of the food, the breakfasts in bed, or, perhaps, none , the sly telephone, the brocaded and quilted dressing gowns, the sive clothes, all business matters thought out carefully for you, most nal affairs arranged second-handedly, that obsession for pleasure, the of mental calisthenics outside of your professions, and very little inside t profession.

ou have announced some good intentions. Doubtless you meant to keep —maybe only to yourself. But forgive me for repeating that idleness killed off more champions than opponents' gloves. Don't let that rman stuff sink too deeply into your noggin. There is no Superman. yone's just a human being, some luckier than others, some better wed. Be grateful for what nature gave you and don't abuse the gift t.

There's a good, solid, stolid, efficient German brain behind you which s what flightiness your own may develop. Pay heed to your competent ler. If you don't, we fear the first man that fights you, big or little, is apt t you.

Sincerely,
Ed W. Smith ■

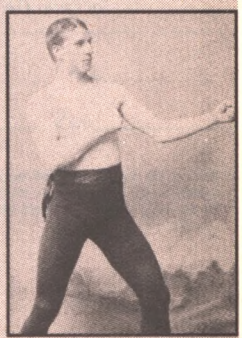
THE RING, January 1935

The Cover: Heavyweight champion Max Baer has a host of contenders to consider, including former champion Max Schmeling, Steve Hamas, Art Lasky, and the fighter he dethroned, Primo Carnera. As it would turn out, Baer's first and only defense would come against frequent loser Jimmy Braddock, who would surprise Baer by winning on points in June 1935.

Oscar Winner: Profiled is 21-year-old California middleweight Oscar Rankins, who is described as "one of the few red-headed Negroes to be found anywhere." Among Rankins' notable victims have been Swede Berglund and former world champion Gorilla Jones. While most East Coast observers fail to recognize Rankins, he's considered a future world champion in Southern California.

Traveling The Globe: Famed sportswriter Daniel M. Daniel reports on a variety of subjects from around the world. Included is a report from Philadelphia on the legendary Mickey Walker's loss to Paul Pirrone, and notes from Hamburg, Germany, where American heavyweight Steve Hamas (pictured) has signed to fight former world champion Max Schmeling.

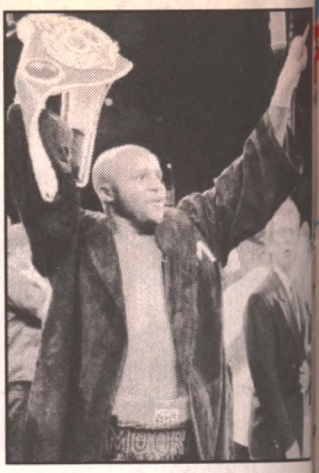
A New Champ Is Crowned: Publisher and Editor Nat Fleischer reports from Madison Square Garden, where New York's Bob Olin (pictured) took the world light heavyweight title from Slapsie Maxie Rosenbloom. According to Fleischer, Olin was an undeserving winner. "The refereeing and judging of bouts," he writes, "is becoming a joke ... "



A Legend Remembered: Man-about-boxing Biddy Bishop recalls former middleweight champion "Nonpareil" Jack Dempsey and details the monument that was erected at his grave site in Portland, Oregon. Writes Bishop, "Dempsey, 32 at the time of his death, died of a broken heart because he failed to defeat Bob Fitzsimmons [in 1891]."

Looking Ahead

By Steve Farhood



Moorer: Number one comes first

MOORER OR LESS

On the day Lennox Lewis defended the WBC heavyweight title against Phil Jackson, WBA/IBF titlist Michael Moorer held an informal press conference at the Trump Regency Hotel. It turned out to be a 30-minute verbal sparring session. Among Moorer's more quotable quotes:

•"Damn the public. I'm gonna make myself happy first."

•"If [George] Foreman keeps running his f_____' mouth, then we'll fight. I'll tell him that to his face. He's jealous because he couldn't beat Evander. I'm not no punk for nobody."

•"People don't know me from a can of paint."

•"I fought for my title. [Lennox Lewis] fought for his out of the garbage can."

•On Larry King's interview with Mike Tyson: "When you become incarcerated, you become so knowledgeable about life and yourself. You should've known these things before you went in."

It's too early to draw lots of conclusions about what kind of champion Moorer will be, but one thing's for sure. When he reigns, he pours.

STUCK IN THE MIDDLE(WEIGHTS)

Stanley Ketchel. Harry Greb. Mickey Walker. Marcel Cerdan. Sugar Ray Robinson. Carlos Monzon. Marvin Hagler. James Toney. John David Jackson.

John David Jackson?

The pantheon of middleweight champions includes legends, superstars, and all-time greats. So what's Jackson, [illegible] regarded as one of the least entertaining world-class fighters in the game, doing with a 160-pound title belt (WBA version) around his waist?

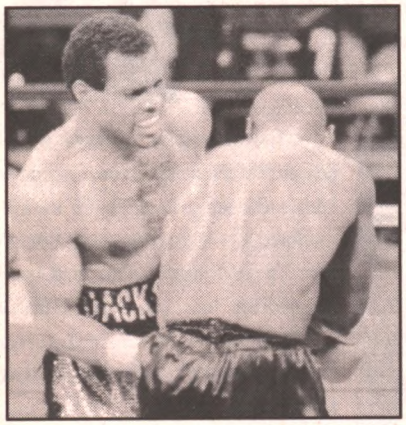


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

Jackson: Oh, is he a world champ?

The funny thing about Jackson is most people, including lots of boxing fans, don't even know he's a champion. The defensively superior boxer won the title by edging Reggie Johnson last October in Buenos Aires. His only fight since was a non-title stoppage of Jeff Johnson on the Lennox Lewis-Phil Jackson undercard in May.

"I thought he looked good for a guy who'd been off that long," said Carl Moretti, matchmaker for Garden State Boxing, which recently signed Jackson. "I was aware of his reputation as a stinker, but it was Johnson who didn't fight."

With Garden State behind him, Jackson may not become a star, but at least he'll get some work. Moretti said Jackson's first defense will likely come against Javier Castillejo, Joe Gatti, or Jesus Medina-Padilla, all of whom have recently lost title fights at junior middleweight. After that? Maybe a rematch with Johnson or a duel with the winner of Vinny Pazienza-Roberto Duran.

"If a guy's a stinker, fine," said Moretti. "But when he's a world champion, people want a shot at the title. I think John knows it's time to mix it up a little bit."

LISTEN UP ...

Look for newly crowned WBC super featherweight champion **Jesse James Leija** to make his first defense against mandatory challenger **Gabriel Ruelas**. "That's okay with us," said **Lester Bedford**, Leija's manager. ... HBO loves WBC featherweight champion **Kevin Kelley**, but isn't quite sure what to do with him. After Kelley outpointed **Jesse Benavides** in May, HBO execs listed several possibilities, including unifications vs. WBO champion **Eloy Rojas** and IBF king **Tom Johnson** and a defense against WBC super bantamweight champ **Tracy Patterson**, who plans to jump up in weight. Patterson will make one more defense, probably against Jesus **Salud** in August.

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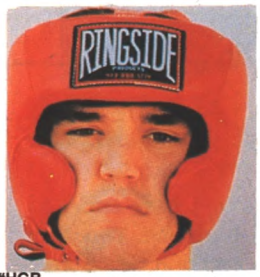

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